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Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 75 *17 April 1978*

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In. 856-B-6 PrEx 7.10:FBIS-MEA-78-74

APR 27 1978

FBIS-MEA-78-74
Monday
17 April 1978
Vol V No 74

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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ACTIVITIES, STATEMENTS BY YASIR 'ARAFAT REPORTED

Exchange With Soviet Leaders

JN141703Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 14 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution, met at noon today in Beirut with Soviet Ambassador Comrade Aleksandr Soldatov. The meeting was attended by brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department.

Our correspondent has learned that Comrade Soldatov handed brother Abu 'Ammar an important letter from the Soviet leaders. Brother Abu 'Ammar handed the ambassador a letter addressed to the Soviet leaders.

World Student Federation Delegation

JN151943Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday received the delegation of the World Student Federation which is currently the guest of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. During the meeting brother Abu 'Ammar explained to the delegation the delicate circumstances through which the Palestinian revolution is passing and stressed that the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement stand in a frontline trench facing imperialism and Zionism. He said that the free men of the whole world stand side by side with us in the same trench.

Brother Abu 'Ammar then pointed out the need to escalate the world campaign of solidarity with the Palestinian youth in all student organizations, which are considered a basic sector in the fight against imperialism and against Zionist aggression.

Brother Abu 'Ammar answered questions from the delegation on the circumstances through which the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement are passing. He also answered questions on the role the World Student Federation is required to play in support of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

UN Official, Military Council

JN152022Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1958 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 April--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, met this evening with the assistant to UN Secretary General Dr Waldheim. The Palestinian news agency WAFA said that the two sides discussed a number of topics pertaining to the UN forces in southern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, 'Arafat chaired a meeting of the supreme military council of the Palestinian revolution. It was reported that the meeting dealt with means to strengthen the forces of the Palestinian revolution.

Military Affairs Reviewed

JN161806Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar yesterday evening presided over a meeting of the joint command of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement that lasted until a late hour last night.

At noon yesterday brother Abu 'Ammar chaired a long meeting of the general military council. It was attended by brother Abu Jihad, Fatah Central Committee member and member of the general command of Al-'Asifah forces. Our correspondent has learned that during the meeting a discussion was held on all issues related to the 8-day war in southern Lebanon and the steps required to consolidate our military forces on all levels. Moreover, a comprehensive study was made of the political situation through which the Arab region and the Palestinian issue have passed.

Interview With BBC

LD132132Y London BBC Domestic Television Service in English 1830 GMT 13 Apr 78 LD

["Newsday" program presented by Michael Charlton, including interview conducted by BBC correspondent Christopher Drake with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat--date, place not specified]

[Text] [Charlton] In Lebanon, following the American-backed United Nations resolution which calls on Israel to withdraw her forces, the various interpretations being given to this Resolution 425 are ambiguous. Much is obscure and only the difficulties of implementing it, as usual, seem clear. The resolution, while calling for the Israelis to get out, is also presumed to stop the Palestinian guerrillas moving back into the area south of the Litani River, which Israel, for the most part, now occupies. Israel has been making the first cautious moves to comply with the call for evacuation by her forces of south Lebanon, but what of the Palestinians? Chris Drake, our Middle East correspondent, has been talking to the leader of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat, and first asked how he interpreted the Israel moves: [begin recording]

['Arafat] In my opinion they are still making some maneuvers not to carry on with the... to implement this Resolution 425. And what they are doing is only a very slight--or what they are offering is a very, very slight withdrawal. In my opinion they are doing this very slight withdrawal to (?suck) the pressure or the international pressure imposed on them--nothing more.

[Question] What would happen if the Israelis did pull out--say by the end of the week they pulled out completely--what would the Palestinians do?

[Answer] We have our agreement between us and the Lebanese Government and it is a Lebanese-Palestinian question. What will be agreed together will follow.

[Question] Yes, I wonder if you could explain the relationship between the Lebanese Government and the Palestinians, because I think there is a great deal of confusion about this, especially concerning the presence of the Palestinians in the south, on the border with Israel. How do you see the agreement?

[Answer] You know that, and the Israelis know that, we did not use this border to attack the Israelis at all from 1973, because we gave our word and we did not use it at all. They are using it as a cover. It is a big lie and you know that it is a big lie.

[Question] But have the Palestinians not been using the south as a base from which, for instance, [to make] the Tel Aviv attack, carried out from down there and around the coast, down the coast and into Israel?

[Answer] You think so.

[Question] We, this is...

[Answer] They know that it is a big lie. You can ask them.

[Question] What I am also interested in is the relationship, the present relationship between the Lebanese and the Palestinians.

[Answer] You know that we have very good relations with President Sarkis, with the Lebanese cabinet, and we are trying to respect this relation.

[Question] Well, having seen the vast amount of damage that the Israelis have done to the south as a result of the Palestinians having been there originally...

[Answer] Stop. Please, why is it as a result of the Palestinians? They now began to understand it is a great conspiracy against the Palestinians, but against the Lebanese in the beginning. We have to remember what the statement had been said by Dr Kissinger, that this invasion had been planned 6 years ago with the Pentagon and with his administration while he was there.

[Question] This is something that you have been expecting for a long time?

[Answer] Yes, and Kissinger had unmasked the whole conspiracy through his statement.

[Question] What do you see as the next move if the Israelis do not pull out of the south?

[Answer] Definitely, the Lebanese have the right to carry on with this resistance.

[Question] And what about...

[Answer] Their rights?

[Question] Yes.

[Answer] According to the United Nations Charter, according to Resolution 425, they have to carry on with this, with their resistance against this occupation for their land, and not to forget they are my allies.

[Question] In that respect, will you be working with the United Nations and the Lebanese?

[Answer] You know that we are working now with both of them.

[Question] But there have been several instances of shooting in the last few days. I must confess I don't know the exact circumstances.

[Answer] No, the Israelis are trying to advance, to take some new positions, so we have to reply to their attack.

[Question] How confident are you that the United Nations are strong enough in the south to persuade the Israelis to move out, to withdraw completely, because clearly the Israelis won't withdraw otherwise?

[Answer] It is not a matter of strength or strength of forces. The matter of...if the Israeli is willing to respect the international legality. It is very important.

[Question] I...

[Answer] You know that they are from many years ago; they are not looking for this international legality, and even they don't respect the United Nations resolutions, the Security Council resolutions. You know that. It is not the first time for them. They are... insist to have an intransigeance

[Question] Intransigeance?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] But they are planning to move back some more on Friday.

[Answer] On Friday, but it was also a very slight withdrawal. You know that.

[Question] So you are very...

[Answer] Let us [know] how many kilometers. One kilometers, 2 kilometers? Wonderful! [end recording]

KUWAITI PAPER SAYS ARAB SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN MAY

JN1160946Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 16 April--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' today cites a senior Saudi source as saying that the Arab summit conference will be held in May and that Saudi Arabia will play a prominent role in the Arab solidarity committee, which is headed by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

The source added that the coming few weeks will mark several important steps to achieve Arab solidarity and remove differences. They will also result in an important Arab surprise. The newspaper does not specify the venue of the conference or the substance of this surprise.

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL ON PROSPECTS FOR SUMMIT

NC161145Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Beirut, 16 April--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has underlined the need for an Arab summit conference to save Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance and to prevent a catastrophe and an explosion in the region.

In a statement published today by the Lebanese magazine AL-'USBU' AL-'ARABI Riyad says that while more than one state have voiced an opinion regarding such a conference, the situation remains ambiguous and no date or venue has been named for the conference.

Some states, he adds, are reluctant and have expressed doubts in view of the Arab differences. They fear that the conference will produce no results because of these differences.

STEADFASTNESS FRONT INFORMATION MINISTERS MEET IN ALGIERS

LD162340Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpts] The conference of the information ministers of the Arab confrontation and steadfastness front will open in Algiers tomorrow to discuss the implementation of the plan approved by the front's conferences in Tripoli and Algiers. Syrian Minister of Information Ahmad Iskandar and PLO Information Department Chief Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh arrived in Algiers yesterday for the conference.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh made the following statement: [begin recording] In fact, the PLO had warned since the start of the Zionist aggression in southern Lebanon that the aggression is meant to realize the historically known Zionist ambitions in another part of the Arab territory, southern Lebanon. The short-term objective of this aggression is to weaken the Palestine revolution forces and to serve American-Zionist-reactionary designs in our region, particularly following As-Sadat's move.

It is within this framework that we look upon the aggression on southern Lebanon. It is within this framework too that we feel that the aggression on southern Lebanon and the Zionist forces which occupy the other part of the south--these forces which entered southern Lebanon with American-reactionary collusion--will not simply leave southern Lebanon unless they are subjected to a strong resistance on the Arab, Lebanese and Palestinian levels aimed at forcing the enemy to withdraw unconditionally. Furthermore, international conditions in genral are favorable to the Palestine revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Arab steadfastness forces should they decide to embark on a successful struggle to force the Zionists to withdraw from the south. Without such moves, we do not believe the invaders will leave southern Lebanon, particularly since the Zionist occupation has not yet achieved its basic objectives against the Palestine resistance.

As for the Palestine resistance, we have asserted from the start that we will continue to fight this new invasion as we did constantly in fighting the Zionist invasion of the Palestinian and Arab territory. We have learned from the experiences of our Palestinian people over 30 years that, without such fighting and confrontation, the Zionist enemy would never budge an inch from the territory.

As regards the UN forces, we have affirmed that they must enforce the UN Security Council resolution with respect to the supervision of the Israeli withdrawal unconditionally from southern Lebanon. It is not the task of the UN forces to provide a cover for the Zionist occupation of the south or to camouflage this occupation or to permit the continuation of this occupation turning the question of the occupation into one of give and take or discussion. [end recording]

AS-SADAT COMMENTS ON PEACE INITIATIVE, DOMESTIC ISSUES

Initiative To Continue

NC141550Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 14 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Aswan, 14 April--President Anwar as-Sadat has affirmed that Egypt will continue its endeavors to establish peace in the Middle East as long as these endeavors are proceeding along their course. They have not failed so far.

In reply to questions by foreign journalists after Friday prayers in An-Nasr Mosque in Aswan, President as-Sadat said: The decision to rule out war as a means of solving the conflict in the area is not new. Progress toward peace is continuing after the peace initiative which I have embarked upon. We have dismissed the path of war and we are now proceeding on the path to peace.

Asked about statements indicating that war is no longer one of the choices, the president said: Why do we use the word "war" now? We are continuing the peace process until we determine that it has failed. It has not failed so far.

Asked if he has received the joint statement on the talks which took place between President Carter and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in Washington, President as-Sadat said that he has not received the joint statement yet.

In reply to newsmen's questions, President as-Sadat expressed complete agreement with the view expressed by Presidents Carter and Ceausescu that the sides concerned in the Middle East should participate in the peace process, which includes the Palestinian issue.

Remarks to Evangelical Delegation

NC152228Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Apr 78 NC

[Text] During his meeting with the U.S. evangelical churches delegation in Aswan, President Anwar as-Sadat expressed hope that Menahem Begin will reconsider the motives behind the president's peace initiative. The president said that he has continued his initiative despite all challenges. He has continued his conviction that the time has come to end the human suffering in this area which has lasted for 30 years.

The president added that when he launched the initiative he believed that Begin and his cabinet would understand his motives. He said: The Israeli people understand the meaning of the initiative 100 percent up to this moment. The American people, including the Jewish community, also understand.

The president said: We--and I mean the 40 million Egyptians--have discarded all the complexes and all the hatred. I verified the real feelings of the Egyptian people when they came out to receive me on my return from Jerusalem. Out of the 8 million residents of Cairo, 5 million--particularly the Egyptian women--came out to receive me.

The president added: Then Begin visited the United States and he sent me a message in which he asked me to meet him anywhere. I answered: Why don't we meet in Ismailia? When he came to Ismailia, I was filled with hope that the Israelis would adopt the same positions and the same new concepts which we had adopted in Egypt. When we met, Begin informed me that the cabinet had decided to return Sinai to Egypt and that our border is the international border with Palestine. President as-Sadat commented on this statement, saying: This border has been an international one for thousands of years.

The president said: Afterward, Begin notified me that Israel would retain the settlements and that these settlements would be guarded by the Israeli army. I told him: Let us leave all these things for the Political and Military committees which we have agreed to form.

The president added: Sinai is not a problem as far as I am concerned. However, I am seeking a lasting peace, and if we do not solve the Palestinian problem we will not achieve peace in the area. This is what I told Israeli Defense Minister Weizman when he visited me some 10 days ago.

President as-Sadat added: Begin then returned to Israel, and I realized that the issue of the settlements on my land and at the expense of my sovereignty is not negotiable. However, Begin wants to make it so. At this point I really felt frustrated.

The president then spoke of his visit to the United States last February and his meeting with President Carter. The president said that, in the wake of his visit, he returned with renewed desire to continue with the initiative.

The president added: When I met 'Ezer Weizman 10 days ago, I told him that I had sensed no progress, neither on the Palestinian problem, which is the core of the issue, nor on Sinai, which I do not consider a problem at all. This is not a problem because the presence of settlements on my land is illegal and tolerates no discussion.

The president said: It might occur to you to ask me: What then? Well, I promised the Israeli people that the October war would be the last war. I then informed them that Israel has a right to live in security. This is still my position up to this moment. When they are ready for peace, I will be ready for peace, but not at the expense of our land or our sovereignty.

The head of the U.S. delegation asked whether his excellency would like the delegation to convey a message to Menahem Begin. The president said: It is possible for you to consider all that I told you as part of such a message. The president added: You can imagine the feelings of the Egyptian people--and the world had seen these feelings via satellite when the millions of sons of Egypt gathered in 'Abidin Square to praise this peace process--and these feelings are still the same at this time. The peace process affects every house in Egypt, and when peace comes, a new era of construction and prosperity will prevail in the area.

The president said that he and President Carter have an open agreement to meet whenever the need for such meetings arises.

MENA Report on Meeting

NC150613Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 14 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Aswan, 14 April--At his meeting with a delegation of U.S. evangelical churches which is currently visiting Egypt, President Anwar as-Sadat reviewed the dimensions of the current situation in the Middle East in the light of the peace initiative. President as-Sadat said: I am always looking ahead and searching for that moment when Mr Begin and the Israeli Government will realize the true hopes attached to the initiative.

The president added: When I made my peace initiative, I had not prepared for it beforehand as some statesmen and analysts say. Nor did I offer my initiative to extract a price. This never happened. My friend President Carter, for example, was surprised by the initiative and so was everybody else in all parts of the world.

Frankly, I embarked upon this initiative despite the opposition in the Arab world and the whole world. I decided upon my initiative and proceeded with it because I was convinced that it was time to end the human suffering which we have experienced for more than 30 and even thousands of years.

President as-Sadat noted that the hope of Egypt and the future of its generations lies in upper Egypt.

The U.S. delegation will leave Cairo 15 April for Jordan to meet with King Husayn as part of its tour of states in the area to acquaint itself with the various views on the peace process in the area.

Interview With OCTOBER

NC161018Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 April--President Anwar as-Sadat has emphasized that the peace initiative was a noble way to achieve peace without war and security without bloodshed and to spare funds and efforts so that we may use them to feed 40 million Egyptians.

President as-Sadat speaks about Egypt's difficult task of getting out of the circle of backwardness. This, he ways, is not an impossible task if we dedicate oursèlves to it. He adds: We have a great asset of experience in all fields, and we have the qualifications and resources which, if utilized for this task, will insure success.

In an interview with OCTOBER magazine published today, the president says: We have great hope of cultivating the land and feeding the people. He refers to the efforts and studies being made by scientists all over Egypt in search of more food. These studies, he adds, will culminate in serious work on the basis of the most up-to-date methods devised by world experts and will thus mark the beginning of a bright and stunning road to security against hunger.

The president talks about the mistakes committed in the At-Tahrir Directorate and Al-Wadi al-Jadid experiments. He asserts: We will not make the same mistakes again. Experts at the ministries of Agriculture, Irrigation and Housing, and at the Desert Institute have studied the new land reclamation areas very carefully and they have drawn up comprehensive scientific plans and assessed the chances of success or failure.

He adds: We hope to cultivate 2.5 million feddan by the end of this century, in addition to the other projects related to minerals, water resources and services, all of which must be integrated to achieve prosperity and affluence for our people.

The president also says: Egypt's land is available to the Egyptian people for ownership. Egypt will thus become part of them and they will be part of it.

He points out that the government will give every peasant at least 20 feddan and will help him cultivate it and protect it. It will promulgate a special law increasing the ownership maximum allowed to encourage competition and promote prosperity in Egypt.

The president refers to the abundance of water in Egypt while the whole Middle East is suffering from a water shortage. He adds that Egypt's problem is one of human effort, but with hope and hard work and with interest in our land and prosperity and the future of our children, we will conquer the fear of hunger, disease and unemployment.

President as-Sadat also speaks about the Egyptian people's day-to-day difficulties in connection with food, clothing and housing. He says: We must be patient because we are on the right course toward solving these problems, whether in Al-Wadi al-Jadid, the High Dam Lake, the mines, or the shores and waters of the Gulf of Suez.

Referring to the fishing projects aimed at providing food security, he says: We have invited international tenders, and over 60 states have made offers for fishing and its industrialization as well as for the construction of a port on the Nasir Lake.

Regarding Israel's seizure of Al-Bardawil Lake's fish, the president says: We have regained small areas of our territory and much of our pride, but Israel has seized much of our territory. But it has been gripped by anxiety. Territory has not brought it security, and the Al-Bardawil fish have not given it food security because it is surviving on U.S. food, oil and rockets.

The president stresses Egypt's need to intensify its efforts to double production and adds that nothing is impossible for science but there can be no science without man and without man's efforts.

AS-SADAT ARRIVES IN LUXOR TO BEGIN TOUR OF QINA

NC161318Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Apr 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today continued his tour of the Upper Egypt governorates for the fourth consecutive day. This morning his excellency visited Qina Governorate. He arrived at Luxor Airport this morning and was received by chief of the presidential bureau Hasan Kamil, Qina Governor Maj Gen 'Abd al-Hafiz al-Barburi, the political, popular and executive leaders of the governorate.

After the reception ceremonies, his excellency proceeded to the sugar factory in Dishna, where he cut a ribbon to mark the opening of the factory. His excellency inspected the various sections and production units of the factory.

The masses of Qina Governorate have been gathering since early this morning shouting slogans for the long life of President as-Sadat, the hero of liberation and construction. Arches of triumph were erected and posters expressing support for the president in his energetic efforts for peace were put up.

At the conclusion of his visit to the sugar factory in Dishna, the president's convoy proceeded to Naj' Hammadi. The president is scheduled to inspect the new aluminum complex in Naj' Hammadi tomorrow.

AL-AHRAM COMMENTS ON U.S.-ROMANIAN STATEMENT

NC160711Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 16 Apr 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Carter-Ceausescu Talks," the newspaper AL-AHRAM analyzes specific points in the final statement on the talks between the U.S. and Romanian presidents.

The paper points out that the statement calls for the resumption of the Middle East peace talks with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the Palestinians. The paper explains that the statement says nothing about the obstacles which Israel has placed in the way of the Egyptian-Israeli contacts and which led to the disruption of these contacts over the past few weeks. Nor does the statement add anything new to the means by which it would be possible to overcome the inflexible Israeli positions that have so far prevented the participation of all the parties concerned in the peace talks.

Egypt obviously agrees with what this U.S.-Romanian joint statement says about the need for the participation of all parties concerned in the peace talks, including the Palestinians. However, it is also clear that the real problem lies not with the Arab side but with the Israeli side.

AL-AHRAM says that President Ceausescu, in his speech at the National Press Club in Washington, referred to the need to return to the Geneva conference formula. It is certain that the problem in the Middle East is not in agreeing on the formula in the first place, but in Israel's acceptance of the basic principles of the peaceful settlement in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and in abandoning its aggressive policy in the region, the latest example of which is its aggression against southern Lebanon.

KAMIL CONFERS WITH U.S. ENVOY, MAHMUD RIYAD

Receives U.S. Ambassador

NC151435Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 15 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 April--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil received U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts today. The meeting was connected with Egypt's diplomatic initiative concerning the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The two also discussed the current efforts for a just and comprehensive solution of the Middle East issue.

Arab League Secretary General

NC161632Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 16 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 April--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad today reviewed the present situation in the Arab world and the results of the secretary general's recent tour of a number of Arab states. The two met at the Foreign Ministry for well over 2 hours today.

After the meeting Mahmud Riyad said he and Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil discussed the results of his recent Arab tour. Riyad said he sensed that responsible officials in the Arab states are determined to bolster Arab solidarity because they are aware of the serious situation caused by Israel's aggression against southern Lebanon and its refusal to withdraw, because of the statements by the Israeli prime minister which deny the Palestinian people's rights and because of Israel's interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Mahmud Riyad said: I have learned that responsible Arab officials are prepared to convene an Arab summit conference and contribute to an Arab working plan to face the situation.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil also noted that they discussed the results of Riyad's tour of the Arab states and that Riyad found the Arab states aware of the need to make preparations and coordinate efforts to convene an Arab summit conference. This conference will deal with the dangers now existing as a result of Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon and its procrastination in withdrawing in accordance with Security Council Resolution 425.

The foreign minister said that Egypt welcomes any joint Arab meeting if realistic preparations are made before such a meeting.

AS-SADAT REJECTS FINANCE MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

NC141901Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 April--Well-informed sources here today said that 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni, deputy prime minister and minister of finance, who is a leading expert in economic liberalization in Egypt, tendered his resignation last week. Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat rejected Al-Qaysuni's resignation, which was tendered because of differences with Prime Minister Mamduh Salim regarding economic measures.

AL-AHRAM today reports that Al-Qaysuni will undergo medical examinations in the next few days in the United States. He had heart surgery in the United States last year. He reportedly expressed dissatisfaction at the government's failure to go ahead with economic revival measures which he considers necessary. Attempts to impose such measures, primarily intended to reduce the state food subsidy, led to outbreaks of violence in the country in January 1977.

SOURCE DENIES GHALI STATEMENTS ON PLANES DEAL

NC160600Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 15 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 April--A responsible source has said that there is no truth to the statements which Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ghali allegedly made before the appropriate committees in the People's Assembly concerning the aircraft deal with the United States and the possibility of transferring these planes from one Arab state to another. The source said that these allegations were fabricated by hostile circles to obstruct the supply of defensive weapons to the Arab states.

KAMIL COMMENTS ON LIKELIHOOD OF WEIZMAN VISIT

NC151629Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Answering a question about news reports on the possibility of Israeli Defense Minister Weizman's arriving in Cairo and about rumors concerning Weizman's threat to resign, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has stated that the issue is neither one of whether Weizman arrives nor one of a change in the members of the Israeli cabinet; the important thing is Egypt's position, which is summed up as follows:

1. Egypt is leaving the door open for the peace efforts on the basis that Israel should realize that it is imperative that its abandon the old concepts and pursue a new policy compatible with the spirit generated by President as-Sadat's initiative.

2. Egypt's position, as has frequently been voiced by his excellency the president, is fixed. It has not changed and it will never change. This position is one of working in every way to achieve an overall and just settlement based on total Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, the Golan, Gaza and the West Bank--including Jerusalem. It is also a position of respecting the rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination. Furthermore, Egypt will never agree to any Israeli settlements or Israeli military installations remaining on its land. Egypt considers that this subject categorically does not lend itself to any discussion.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil added that, in view of this clear-cut position, world public opinion cannot be taken in by fabricated news reports of dubious origin and objectives, reports which speak of plans conflicting with this fixed stand, based on the principles to which Egypt adheres in order to fulfill the total pan-Arab objectives.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH ROMANIA

NC120824Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt and Romania have signed a protocol for technical cooperation in the field of electricity. Under the protocol, Romania will loan Egypt $30 million on easy terms. The protocol was signed for Egypt by Engineer Ahmad Sultan, deputy prime minister for production and minister of electricity, who is now visiting Romania. The protocol was signed for Romania by First Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Oprea.

After signing the protocol, Engineer Ahmad Sultan said that $16 million of the loan will be used for the illumination of 200 villages and the renovation of the electricity distribution networks in the main towns in Ad-Daqahliyah and Al-Gharbiyah provinces. The remaining $14 million will be used for the electrification of water wheels and irrigation and agricultural projects in the republic's provinces within the framework of the Electricity Ministry's plan to operate 200,000 water wheels and 100,000 irrigation pumps by electricity. This will save $36 million that is being spent on fuel to operate these pumps.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS SAUDI AMBASSADOR 16 APRIL

JN161721Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1652 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 16 April--Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today met with Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Aba al-Khayl, Saudi ambassador in Cairo. Discussion during the meeting dealt with the relations between the two countries and current developments in the Middle East situation.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL APPROVED

JN161929Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] At its emergency session this evening under Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the cabinet approved the provisional law providing for the establishment of a National Consultative Council.

The prime minister sent a reply message to His Majesty King Husayn including the provisions of the provisional law in response to his majesty's instructions to establish the council included in his majesty's letter to Badran last Thursday.

BADRAN ANSWERS HUSAYN ON CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

JN162025Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has sent the following letter in reply to His Majesty King Husayn's letter addressed to Mr Badran last Thursday.

My lord, your exalted majesty, may God grant you victory:

I send my lord my sincere allegiance and highest exaltations. I have received with pride Your Majesty's directives concerning the enacting of a provisional statute to establish a national consultative council which will offer counsel and guidance and which will discuss the state's general policy within a framework of fruitful cooperation with the government and in a spirit commensurate with the public interest. Allow me, Your Majesty, to mention that these directives did not come as a surprise to me because for a considerable period of time I have been aware of your pioneering thoughts. I was convinced that you were under a considerable strain when Jordan, due to certain overpowering reasons, froze its elected parliamentary establishment. As I submit before Your Majesty, in the name of your cabinet, the provisions of this law, the enactment of which you have ordered, I am pleased to mention the principle of consultations [mabadi' as-shura] which were brought about by your great grandfather, the greatest apostle, in the heavenly message: Consult them concerning all issues, and when you make a decision, let God be your support. This has always been the ambition of Jordan since it was established by the late 'Abdullay ibn al-Husayn, who laid the foundation of the interaction between the government and people and who made the Hashemite Jordanian throne a guarantee for stability and balance, a refuge for the citizen and a protection for him against any imbalance between the government authority and the rights of the citizens. As well as currents which are opposed to legal democracy. You immediately raised the torch regardless of the difficulties which were imposed by the circumstances resulting from the aggression and struggles in the region. Your Majesty's conviction regarding these principles and Your Majesty's perspicacity have been responsible for maintaining our constitutional establishments at a time when similar constitutions were swept away as a result of only a fraction of the difficulties which Jordan had to content with. Even during these exceptional circumstances which were forced upon us and during which our elected parliamentary establishment disappeared, not a single citizen felt that the democratic spirit had disappeared from our country or that he was suffering from any pressures which are contradictory to this spirit. This is because the guidance of Your Majesty motivated everyone to preserve all activities within the democratic tradition whose roots you, the Hashemites, have deepened in the soil of this good land.

Despite the absence of our parliamentary establishment, laws were formulated in which we were careful to preserve this spirit, particularly concerning guarantees for the independence of the judiciary.

For all these reasons it is no surprise that the royal directive to establish the National Consultative Council should come from the protector of the constitutional democratic spirit and that Jordanian progress should be supported by a real bastion. Although it is not an alternative to elected parliamentary life, it will fill an urgent need evident to my colleagues and myself as we carried out executive and judiciary duties simultaneously.

As I submit before Your Majesty the provisions of this law which have been drafted by the government in light of your guidance, allow me to express the gratitude and appreciation of the nation for this historic decision which Your Majesty is presenting to your people at the beginning of the first year of the golden jubilee of the blessed reign of Your Majesty.

May God preserve Your Majesty as a great leader and a protector of values and principles. We pray God to preserve Your Majesty, to point out the good and to lead you. He is all-hearing, all-answering.

Amman, 16 April 1978

CROWN PRINCE ADDRESSES VISITING U.S. CLERGYMEN

JN152105Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has stated that a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute requires Israel's recognition that the Palestinians have legitimate rights--such as self-determination--and Israel's recognition of the inevitability of its withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. His highness said this when he received a group of clergymen representing 40 million Christians in the United States. The clergymen are touring Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Israel.

The U.S. delegation arrived in Amman this afternoon from Cairo where they met with President as-Sadat. They will leave Amman for the West Bank tomorrow. They are scheduled to meet with the Israeli prime minister on Tuesday.

Speaking about the current efforts to find a solution to the problem, his highness said that Israel is always launching all kinds of military and information campaigns with the aim of diverting the public opinion in the West from the essence of the problem. Israel, he said, refuses to discuss the basic issue in the conflict, namely, the Palestinian problem. His highness cited Israel's recent occupation of southern Lebanon and the Israeli campaign against the United States' supplying Saudi Arabia and Egypt with certain kinds of weapons as examples of Israel's behavior.

In reply to a question about Jordan's views regarding a solution to the Middle East crisis, he said that the solution can occur through Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the removal of the settlements from these territories, granting the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza the right to self-determination, and granting them the legitimate right to return to their homeland or receive compensation.

His highness said: We do not have a specific plan of action, but the Jordanian stand is based on the implementation of international resolutions on the Arab-Israeli dispute which are based on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

His highness reviewed the aspects of peaceful coexistance between Arabs and Jews in the Middle East area until the emergence of the Zionist movement. He asked the Western nations not to let the Palestinian people and the Arab people at large pay the price of European persecution of the Jewish people. His highness said that the Israeli methods of suppression against the kinfolk in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, such as forced emigration, the Judaization of the Arab economy and the Arab education curriculums, the freezing or Judaization of the Arab and Islamic laws, and the acts of oppression and terrorism in the region do not give us any glimpse of hope. The present opportunity to reach a just solution to the conflict might well be the last.

CROWN PRINCE MEETS U.S. WAR COLLEGE DELEGATION

JN151320Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has affirmed that the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East through the implementation of Resolution 242 will provide the suitable atmosphere for the countries of the region to achieve further positive steps on the path of development and prosperity. This came in a speech by his royal highness while receiving at the Royal Scientific Society the delegation of the U.S. national war college currently visiting Jordan. In his speech the crown prince talked about the political conditions the region is witnessing as a result of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories in 1967.

His royal highness said: This occupation has created difficult economic conditions which have curbed Jordan's economic development and generally caused a stage of political and economic instability in the region as a whole.

His royal highness added: The availability of trained scientific-technological manpower in Jordan and our proximity to rich oil countries have created the ambition to establish economic unity with these countries under which Jordan would act as an agent for passing technology on to these countries. His highness affirmed that Jordan will do its best to bolster its economic relations with all countries in the world as well as with world economic institutions and groupings.

His highness answered questions from members of the delegation on a number of political and economic topics. The delegation then saw a film on the foundation of the Royal Scientific Society and its aims and accomplishments.

Delegation Received by Commander

JN151624Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 15 April--Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian armed forces, met today with the delegation of the U.S. national war college which is currently visiting Jordan. The delegation was briefed by the commander in chief on the organization and development of the Jordanian armed forces.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ARRIVES IN BEIRUT

NC170821Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Text] UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim arrived at Beirut International Airport a short while ago for a visit to Lebanon to last several hours. He was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense Fu'ad Butrus, UN Forces Middle East Commander General Siilasvuo, and senior Lebanese Foreign Ministry and UN officials.

Dr Waldheim, accompanied by Minister Butrus, will proceed to the presidential palace in Ba'abda for a meeting with President Ilyas Sarkis.

Waldheim, Butrus Make Statements

NC171018Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim, accompanied by the UN assistant secretary general, arrived at Beirut International Airport at 0930 today aboard a special plane.

After inspecting the guard of honor, the UN secretary general went to the VIP lounge. Welcoming him, Minister Butrus said: Today's visit of UN Secretary General Dr. Waldheim to Lebanon, although brief, is of special importance to us. In view of the present political background in the region and in Lebanon following present political background in the region and in Lebanon following UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426, Dr Waldheim's visit is necessary for talks with the states concerned on the best and quickest way to implement all the provisions of the two Security Council resolutions, bearing in mind the prominent role played by Dr Waldheim in the passing of these two resolutions. This is what we ask for. We want the implementation of the resolution on Israeli withdrawal to take place as soon as possible. At the same time we insist that aid be extended to us to establish the Lebanese authorities' control of southern Lebanon.

He added: Dr Waldheim's visit to Lebanon comes as a glimmer of light begins to appear in a clouded sky. I am convinced that, with his appreciable efforts and the talents he always demonstrated in the discharge of his high duties, Dr Waldheim will continue to iron out the difficulties which may hinder the implementation of the UN resolutions and impede solutions based on justice and rights.

On behalf of the Lebanese Government and myself, I welcome you in this country, which you have visited before and to which you have frequently rendered your services. Lebanon takes this opportunity to thank you.

Dr Waldheim then spoke. He said: I thank Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus for his kind words and the warm and friendly welcome he has accorded me on arrival. I am very happy to be here again to help Lebanon solve the problem it is facing these days.

Addressing reporters, Waldheim said: Minister Butrus has stated the purpose of my visit; namely, to discuss with all the parties concerned the complete implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. This is the aim of my visit. I am looking forward to my talks with President Ilyas Sarkis, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and other Lebanese officials. I attach great importance to the speedy implementation of the Security Council resolution so that the full sovereignty of the Lebanese Government may return, and it will return, to southern Lebanon. I underscore this point because I consider it to be the main topic in our discussions in Beirut.

He added: The Israeli withdrawal has started, but I want to say that this is only the beginning and that it does not fulfill my wish for a speedy and complete withdrawal of the forces from the area. This will of course be the topic of discussion when I go to Israel. I will meet here with Mr 'Arafat during my visit to Beirut. I am interested in exchanging views with Mr 'Arafat and in discussing the present situation with him.

At 1017 UN Secretary General Dr Waldheim and the accompanying delegation arrived at the presidential palace in B'abda. He was saluted by a presidential guard of honor. He was received by the palace's director of protocol and public relations, Ambassador Khalil Haddad.

Earlier, Dr Waldheim, accompanied by Minister Fu'ad Butrus, met with his chief aides at the prime minister's office.

Further Report

NC171055Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] After Dr Waldheim's statement, a dialog ensued between him and reporters. Asked whether there was any intention to change the UN force in Lebanon from a peace-keeping force to a deterrent force, he said: The peace-keeping force has an assigned task to be implemented in a specified manner. This force's mandate is in accordance with the two Security Council resolutions. Any change in that means a need for a new Security Council resolution.

He was asked: What specific steps do you deem necessary to speed up the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon?

He replied: One of the main objectives of my visit to the area is to discuss this point. As I have said, I will hold talks with the Israeli Government tomorrow. Of course, I will raise this point and I hope we will be able to expedite the withdrawal steps.

He was asked: What means does the United Nations have to bring pressure to bear on Israel to implement the Security Council resolution and withdraw?

He replied: Discussions must be held with them on the provisions of the Security Council resolution. Then it may be possible to achieve a speedy Israeli withdrawal.

Asked what other topics he might discuss with the Lebanese side in addition to the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, he said: The Lebanese foreign minister can answer this question.

He was then asked: What is your feeling today in the wake of the dispatch of UN forces to the area of the clashes for the first time?

He replied: This is not the first time. There are British troops [with the UN forces] in Cyprus.

Question: Do you intend to visit Syria?

Answer: Not this time. I now want to meet with the officials of the two countries directly involved, meaning Lebanon and Israel.

Question: Why have you still not provided the required number of UN peace-keeping troops in Lebanon?

Answer: I believe that the number of the troops that have already arrived is good, considering that time was short. We have sent a reasonable force of about 2,500 men. The rest will arrive within 2 weeks. If necessary I will ask the UN Security Council to increase the number. The operation is proceeding well. Arrangements are being made with all parties to enable us to accomplish our mission in the interest of peace and settlement of the present problem.

WALDHEIM MAY MEET WITH 'ARAFAT IN DAMASCUS

JN161107Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1054 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 April--Dr Kurt Waldheim, United Nations secretary general, will arrive here tomorrow morning from Geneva on a tour during which he will visit Beirut, Damascus and occupied Jerusalem.

Waldheim will hold talks with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus dealing with Security Council Resolution 425 and the task of the UNIFIL.

It was noted here today that Dr Waldheim may meet with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in Damascus to avoid certain diplomatic obstacles, and not in the United Nations offices here as previously mentioned.

UN SOURCES: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IRREGULAR

NC150630Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Apr 78 NC

[Text] According to UN sources in Beirut, the second stage of the symbolic Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon as carried out by the Israeli forces was incompatible with the plan submitted by the Israeli officials to Ensio Siilasvuo, coordinator general of the UN forces in the Middle East. The plan for the second stage of the Israeli withdrawal, it should be noted, covers an area 12 km wide, extending from Al-Khardali Bridge to Al-Qa'qa'iyah Bridge at a depth ranging from 2 to 7 km.

UNIFIL Commander General Erskine told reporters during the handing-over process that his men have no orders to prevent the return of unarmed Palestinians. He added that the UN forces, however, will not permit armed men to return to the area.

UN COMMANDER DENIES PALESTINIANS TO RETURN TO SOUTH

NC160720Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 16 Apr 78 NC

[Text] UN Commander in southern Lebanon General Erskine has announced that the Lebanese evacuees may return to their homes and resume normal work. He denied any intention to allow the Palestinians to return to southern Lebanon after the Israeli withdrawal.

BUTRUS COMMENTS ON STATEMENTS BY DAYAN, GHALI

NC151837Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Minister Butrus today commented on two statements which have drawn political attention: 1) the statement by the Israeli foreign minister on Lebanon and on Security Resolution 242, which deals with the territories occupied in 1967; and 2) the statement by the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs on Resolution 425, which deals with the occupation of part of Lebanon's territory.

Asked about the Israeli foreign minister's statement on UN Security Council 242, Minister Butrus said: On several occasions Lebanon has adopted a principled stand on Resolution 242, either officially or unofficially. Lebanon still adheres to this stand. Resolution 242 does not concern Lebanon because it deals with borders and withdrawal. However, Lebanon is directly concerned with Resolution 425 issued recently by the Security Council. This resolution affirms the security of Lebanon's international and recognized borders, as well as Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

Asked to comment on the statement by Egyptian Minister Dr Butrus Ghali on Resolution 425, Foreign Minister Butrus said: We do not want to underestimate what any friendly or fraternal state may have done in terms of rendering support to us to obtain Resolution 425. However, this does not mean that others should claim credit for this resolution. This reminds me of the proverb which says: Victory has 1,000 fathers but defeat is an orphan. As long as there are friends who are claiming credit for Resolution 425, this an indication that this resolution is considered a victory for Lebanon and for the national interest, and this encourages us. In any case we thank Egypt and the Arab brothers for their support at the Security Council.

BUTRUS: LEBANON WILL NOT 'WAIT WITH HANDS TIED'

LD1312257 Paris LE FIGARO in French 12 Apr 78 p 11 LD

[Jorg Stocklin dispatch: "Lebanese Foreign Minister: Our efforts for National Reconciliation Are Still Being Undermined"]

[Text] Beirut--Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus stated yesterday that the Beirut authorities do not intend to ask for the UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon to be increased "in the near future" despite the "extremely precarious" nature of the ceasefire in the border region. The Lebanese diplomatic chief added that "there has still been no Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon," contrary to statements made by the Jerusalem leaders.

Referring to confrontations which broke out in Beirut suburbs on Sunday evening between "armed elements" and "Arab deterrent force" soldiers (mainly Syrian), Fu'ad Butrus indicated that these incidents, "which have occurred at a time when the Beirut government is trying to promote national reconciliation," are "once again anything but accidental." "Some people" he said, "are still undermining all attempts made by the Lebanese Government and parliament to improve intercommunity relations. I am afraid that, in these circumstances, it is still too early to deal with the Palestinian case at national and international levels, but the Lebanese State nevertheless refuses to be condemned to waiting with its hands tied."

Mentioning the Security Council's adoption of Resolution 425, which allowed the first blue helmets to be sent to southern Lebanon, Fu'ad Butrus recalled that "this resolution would never have been adopted" and that "France would never have agreed to supply contingents for the peace-keeping force" if this force "had been given the slightest power to intervene. Therefore we must be patient and wait for all the 4,000 blue helmets to arrive (there are 2,000 at the moment) before trying to strengthen the role of size of the UN temporary force in Lebanon."

The minister thinks the Lebanese Christian community's reaction is based on two main factors: 1--"legitimate fear" based on past and recent history; 2--the "contradictory desire to be reassured and to see the country reunited."

Israel's desire to take certain Christian groups "under its protective wing" seems "illusory" to him in that the Jewish state must above all "settle its dispute with more than 100 million Arabs."

Referring to Lebanon's future, Fu'ad Butrus was eager to point out that, long before the 1975-76 divil war, his country had only spent 2 years, from 1946-1948, outside the disturbance which the birth of Israel created in the Middle East. For this reason, what it has to do now--by material reconstruction, restoration of territorial integrity and national sovereignty--is to start to live at last.

SPEAKER KAMIL AL-AS'AD LEAVES FOR DAMASCUS

NC141307Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Apr 78 NC

[Text] This morning Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad met with a delegation from the National Parliamentary Group. The delegation reviewed with him the outcome of the latest contacts it has held with the sides concerned with the aim of tackling the general situation.

Afterward, Speaker al-As'ad left for Damascus. It is a private visit, but he may hold some contacts with Syrian officials.

Returns, Makes Statement

NC141923Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad returned to Beirut from Damascus at 1700 today. Al-As'ad left for Damascus this morning to attend a ceremony at the As-Sayyidah Zaynab Shrine to mark the passage of 40 days since the death of his mother.

While Speaker al-As'ad was at the As-Sayyidah Zaynab Shrine, Syrian Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi arrived, and the two held a private meeting. Prime Minister al-Halabi said that his meeting with Kamil al-As'ad was at the instruction of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Answering questions by newsmen, Speaker al-As'ad said: My talks with the Syrian prime minister have been fruitful and constructive. Syria attaches importance to Lebanon's destiny at this delicate stage and to the need to save Lebanon. Syria also attaches importance to the need to maintain Lebanon's territorial integrity and stability. Syria feels that the crisis facing Lebanon is linked with the destiny of the Arab area and the Arab cause as a whole.

Speaker al-As'ad added: Our talks centered on the following points:

1. The need for Lebanese unity on the basic issues affecting the destiny of Lebanon and the Arabs.

2. The need to prevent any explosion from within which might dissipate this unity. The dangers of such an explosion could extend beyond Lebanon and affect the entire Arab area.

3. The need for diligent efforts to remove all difficulties and obstacles in the way of implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and the need to exert efforts to bring about the implementation of this resolution in letter and spirit.

SYRIAN COLONEL ARRIVES IN BEIRUT FOR TALKS

JN151404Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 April--Col Muhammad al-Khuli arrived in Beirut this afternoon as an envoy of the Syrian regime. Immediately after his arrival he went to the presidential palace, where he met with President Ilyas Sarkis.

It has been learned that Colonel al-Khuli is carrying a message from the president of the Syrian regime to President Ilyas Sarkis. Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, commander of the Arab deterrent forces, was summoned to the presidential palace and joined the meeting between Al-Khuli and the Lebanese president.

Meets With Sarkis

NC151630Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Apr 78 NC

[Text] This afternoon President Ilyas Sarkis received Brig Gen Muhammad al-Khuli, who has arrived from Damascus to take part in the efforts being made to remedy the current situation.

Messages to Sarkis, Al-Jumayyil

NC151631Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 15 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] At 1340, Brig Gen Muhammad al-Khuli, the official responsible for the personal safety of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, arrived at the presidential palace in B'abda. He held a meeting with President Sarkis. The commander of the Arab deterrent forces, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, attended the meeting, which continued until 1500.

It has been reported that Brigadier General al-Khuli brought a message for President Sarkis from President al-Asad pertaining to the developments of the current situation in Lebanon, particularly in the light of the political and security situation in the wake of the recent 'Ayn ar-Rummanah incidents.

At 1600 today, Brigadier General al-Khuli visited Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil at his office at the Phalangist headquarters and held a round of talks with him concerning the current situation and its developments.

After the meeting the following statement was issued:

Brigadier General al-Khuli, accompanied by Maj Ibrahim Huwayji, visited Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil at his office at the Phalangist headquarters and met with him until 1700. After the visit he said that his mission in Lebanon is to convey an oral message from President al-Asad to President Sarkis and Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. He said that the message is concerned with the security situation and its continued stability. He said that he has a reply for President al-Asad from President Sarkis. He added that he had an exchange of views with President Sarkis and that the results of their talks were very beneficial.

Message to Sham'un

NC151808Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 15 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] At 1730 today former President Camille Sham'un received Brigadier General al-Khuli, who has arrived in Beirut from Damascus. Al-Khuli handed Camille Sham'un a message from President al-Asad. Sham'un said that he gave a message in response to Al-Khuli, who will pass it to the Syrian officials.

SHAM'UN COMMENTS AFTER MEETING SYRIAN ENVOY

NC160602Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 15 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Former President Camille Sham'un tonight spoke about his meeting with Syrian envoy Brig Gen Muhammad al-Khuli.

Sham'un began his statement by answering a question connected with his meeting with the Syrian envoy. Sham'un said: We discussed the current situation for no less than 1 hour. The Syrian officials believe that there is a plot in Lebanon to create misunderstandings and incidents following the arrival of the Syrian forces in Lebanon. I said that we could not believe that there was any plot or any persons concocting a plot as pictured by Brigadier General al-Khuli. The reason for the present misunderstanding and subsequent incidents was that the Arab deterrent forces should have carried out their duties but failed for reasons which we refrained from mentioning. Nevertheless, all we want is restoration of normal conditions between the Lebanese and the Syrians and establishment of relations on strong foundations. There must be reciprocal trust and affection, not fear and hatred.

Asked about the security and political situation in Lebanon, Sham'un said: Arab deterrent forces are present in the country. However, my view is that the Lebanese security forces and the Lebanese Army must assume their duties. The Lebanese administrative and political authorities must provide the army and the security forces all means enabling them to carry out their duties. If this had been done we would have assumed our responsibility and the time will come when we may say to the deterrent forces: We thank you very much; your mission is over.

Envoy Concludes Visit

JN152030Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 April--Muhammad al-Khuli, envoy of the president of the Syrian regime, this evening concluded his short visit to Beirut. During the visit he met with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, senior Lebanese officials, and rightist front leaders Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil.

Before his departure from Beirut, Al-Khuli said that he delivered messages to Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Sham'un and Al-Jumayyil on the developments in Lebanon. He said that he is carrying a message from President Sarkis and remarks from Sham'un concerning the situation in Lebanon to convey to his government.

JUNBLATT MEETS WITH U.S., SOVIET ENVOYS

NC151826Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 15 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] At noon today U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker met with Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt. They discussed the political and security aspects of the situation in the country.

U.S. Embassy sources have said that Ambassador Parker passed on information from the U.S. Government to the PSP leader. Yesterday he passed similar information to former President Camille Sham'un and Phalangist Party leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. This afternoon Walid Junblatt visited Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov. The subject of their talks has not been revealed, although they are reportedly part of the current discussions aimed at preventing the exacerbation of the conflict in the country.

'ARAFAT HOLDS TALKS WITH FORMER PREMIER AS-SULH

JN151640Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met yesterday evening with Taqiy ad-Din as-Sulh, former Lebanese prime minister. Our radio correspondent has learned that during the meeting the latest developments in the current situation in Lebanon following the savage Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon were discussed.

SARKIS HOLDS TALKS TO CONSOLIDATE SECURITY

Meets With Al-Jumayyil

NC141700Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] President Ilyas Sarkis held a long meeting with Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil today. Following the meeting, Shaykh al-Jumayyil said the current situation is not in the interest of anyone, and this is a pity. He added that some elements are trying to sow seeds of discord between Lebanon and Syria--two countries with fraternal ties.

Asked whether he believes the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah-Ash-Shiyah incident has been contained, Shaykh al-Jumayyil said: I hope so. It will be sheer madness if it is not contained. It will be the detriment of Syria, Lebanon and the Arabs.

Meets Al-Khatib, Al-Jumayyil

NC151250Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Apr 78 NC

[Text] This morning President Ilyas Sarkis met with the commander of the Arab deterrent forces, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib. The two reviewed the latest developments in the security situation and the measures taken to consolidate security and stability.

At 1130 President Sarkis met with Phalangist Party leader Shaykh al-Jumayyil. He then met with Dany Sham'un. Emerging from the meeting, Shaykh al-Jumayyil said: We are striving and acting to restore calm and stability to the country. We hope we will succeed. However, all of us must cooperate if we are to succeed. There must be cooperation among all sincere parties concerned about Lebanon's interests, as well as about the interests of the Arabs and the Palestinian cause.

Asked if a Syrian envoy will visit Lebanon shortly, Shaykh al-Jumayyil said: I know nothing about this.

Asked to comment on a statement issued by Suria affirming that the Arab deterrent forces act on orders from legitimate Lebanese authorities and on the fact that the Lebanese Government has issued a statement affirming this, Shaykh al-Jumayyil said: It is known that the Arab deterrent forces are under the command of the legitimate authorities. These forces are under the command of the president. The commander of these forces is Lebanese.

Shaykh al-Jumayyil added: The Syrian forces which came to Lebanon are friendly forces. They extinguished the fire and stopped the massacre. We owe thanks to President al-Asad.

AN-NAHAR: AL-HUSS OFFERED HIS RESIGNATION

JN170848Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 April--The newspaper AN-NAHAR today discloses that Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has proposed to President Ilyas Sarkis that he tender the resignation of his government.

The paper did not give reasons for the resignation but indicated that Dr al-Huss offered to resign during his meeting with the president last night. The offer was ignored, however, at the request of President Sarkis.

AN-NAHAR adds that the difficulty in forming a new government, which would mean an indefinite cabinet crisis, in addition to the need for a united stand in the official talks with Dr Kurt Waldheim today, were the principal causes for ignoring the question of the resignation of the government, which was formed 16 months ago.

PARKER MEETS WITH AL-JUMAYYIL, CAMILLE SHAM'UN

JN141349Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 14 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 14 April--U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Richard Parker today met with Phalangist leader Pierre al-Jumayyil and with National Liberals Party leader Camille Sham'un.

After the meeting the U.S. ambassador declined to make any statement on the nature of his talks with Al-Jumayyil and Sham'un. However, Sham'un said the discussion with the U.S. ambassador dealt with the developments in Lebanon following the clashes over the past few days.

IRAN OFFERS TO SEND MORE TROOPS TO LEBANON

NC160702Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Iran, which has 200 troops attached to UNIFIL, has offered to send another battalion provided Israel withdraws in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution passed last month. A UN spokesman has stated that in its offer Iran pointed out that Israel must officially announce that its forces will withdraw from southern Lebanon by the end ofApril.

The UN force in Lebanon now stands at about 2,500 men out of the originally proposed number of 4,000. A group of 400 French paratroopers will reinforce the UN contingent this week. The countries that have troops attached to UNIFIL so far are Canada, France, Iran, Nepal, Norway, Senegal and Sweden.

AL-HUSS THANKS SAUDI ARABIA FOR SUPPORT, AID

JN161150Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 16 April--Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has praised Saudi-Lebanese relations, saying that Lebanon's relations with Saudi Arabia are very special and characterized by friendship, brotherhood and mutual respect.

In a statement published in the newspaper AR-RIYADH today, Dr al-Huss says that it was thanks to Saudi Arabia that the Riyadh conference was convened to lay the foundations for putting an end to the abnormal condition of internal fighting and suffering which prevailed in Lebanon for 2 years.

Furthermore, the kingdom actively shared--within the framework of the quadripartite committee which was formed in accordance with the Cairo summit resolutions--in preparing the atmosphere for the restoration of normality in Lebanon.

Dr Salim al-Huss affirmed that Lebanon is in need of the Arab deterrent force until it is able to build its intrinsic power. He denied that there are obstacles regarding the stay of the deterrent forces for the period needed by Lebanon. Referring to the extension of the deterrent forces' mandate following the expiration of the current period, he said that this does not constitute a problem because the Arab states participating in these forces or contributing to the financial burden are ready to respond to Lebanon as soon as asked to by the legitimate authority.

Answering a question on his country's relations with the Palestinian resistance, the Lebanese prime minister stressed that the issue of Palestine is the issue of Lebanon and of all Arabs. He added that relations with the Palestinian resistance are regulated by agreements concluded between the Lebanese Government and the PLO. Some of these agreements have been consolidated by the Riyadh and Cairo resolutions. He concluded that these relations are the subject of constant contacts between Lebanese officials and PLO leaders.

GOVERNMENT SOURCE COMMENTS ON RECENT CLASHES

NC141934Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Apr 78 NC

[Text] A government source this evening made the following statement: The events of the past few days have indeed been regrettable and painful. On this occasion we would like to note that until the state completes building its institutions, particularly on the security level, the Arab deterrent forces, a legal armed force, will continue to fill this large vacuum.

In view of this, it was necessary to ask the Arab deterrent forces to intervene to put an end to the clashes between Ash-Shiyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. If these clashes had continued, they would have expanded in size and intensity.

In implementation of this mission, the Arab deterrent forces deployed their forces between Ash-Shiyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah with the knowledge and approval of all the parties concerned. However, in view of the delicate nature of their mission, skirmishes occurred involving these forces while they were deploying in their staging areas. Despite the efforts of sincere people from more than one side, the clashes became worse, particularly because of the behavior of some undisciplined elements. Despite the gravity of what has happened, everyone must strive to overcome the repercussions of this painful incident so that life may return to normal in this area.

PHALANGIST RADIO REPORTS ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC161325Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 16 Apr 78 NC

[Text] A responsible source at deterrent forces command headquarters has told the Voice of Lebanon radio correspondent that the security situation is good, that all the parties and groups are cooperating in keeping the situation good, and that the cooperation among these parties and groups is commendable.

The source said: The Arab deterrent forces command intends to take measures aimed at entrenching security and permanently consolidating stability. Furthermore, there is a plan calling for providing the Lebanese security organs with the opportunity to play their natural role. However, whenever the plan makes headway toward its objectives, incidents occur which delay such measures.

The contacts continued today between the commander of the Arab deterrent forces and the representatives of the Phalangists and of the National Liberal Party on the security coordination committee. It has been learned that existing problems related to various subjects have been resolved, with the exception of the (Calotte) building issue. Representatives of the Phalangists and of the National Liberal Party have demanded that the fortifications set up on the roof of this building, which overlooks At-Tayyunah and Sami as-Sulf Street, be dismantled in implementation of the agreement already concluded on this matter.

As far as the security situation is concerned, the tranquillity which reigned all along the old Sidon road--the dividing line between the Ash-Shiyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah areas--was disturbed by only one firing incident perpetrated by alien Palestinian elements that had penetrated as far as the Marun Marun Villa and fired on the car of Joseph B'aqlini outside the flour mills. B'aqlini escaped unhurt. These elements also fired on a truck belonging to the municipality. Nobody inside the truck was hurt. Furthermore, the saboteurs fired on another Lebanese car. As soon as the deterrent elements gave chase to the Palestinian elements, the situation returned to normal.

A military expert has defused some 20 shells in the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah area. These unexploded shells had been lying on the ground in some streets. Any citizens who find any strange objects should not touch them, but must report them to the nearest security post.

A bomb exploded in the Hotel Dieu area at 0400 today, shattering window panes of a house and slightly wounding a woman and two boys.

ISRAELI GUNBOAT REPORTEDLY DRIVEN OFF

JN160824Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The Joint forces of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement last night prevented an Israeli gunboat from advancing in the direction of Sidon harbor in southern Lebanon. The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that the Israeli gunboat was forced to withdraw to the high seas when it came under rocket fire by the joint forces deployed in the area.

INA REPORTS ARTILLERY DUEL IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN161345Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Beirut, 16 April--The joint forces and the Zionists occupation forces have exchanged artillery fire on the Al-Bazuriyah-'Ayn Bi'al axis in southern Lebanon.

The INA correspondent reported that the Zionist forces have reinforced their advance positions with vehicles on this axis. Zionist air force planes flew over Tyre and An-Nabatiyah towns.

STATEMENT ON ROLE OF DETERRENT FORCES ISSUED

JN141640Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--An official source has stated the following:

The security situation exploded a few days ago in Beirut between 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Ash-Shiyah in a manner which threatened to return fighting to the Lebanese capital. This prompted the legitimate authorities in Lebanon to give orders to a Syrian battalion forming part of the deterrent forces to intervene to halt the fighting. The deterrent force did in fact move, but despite repeated warnings issued by the Lebanese command of the deterrent forces to those who were firing, certain troublemakers opened fire on the deterrent force which was charged with the task of stopping the fighting on orders from the legitimate Lebanese authorities. The Syrian Government, which has placed part of its forces under the command of the Lebanese president to help him restore peace and security to Lebanon, confirms that it does not interfere in the activities of these forces or in the performance of their duty because these forces act on orders from the legitimate authorities. The Syrian Government requests all Lebanese parties to support the legitimate authorities to enable them to carry out their responsibilities in restoring peace to the fraternal country.

INFORMATION MINISTER LEAVES FOR ALGIERS

JN151349Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1320 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 15 April--Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad left Damascus before noon today for Algiers to attend the meetings of the information ministers of the steadfastness and confrontation front which will be held there on 17-18 April.

Statement in Algiers

JN161313Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, minister of information of the Syrian Arab Republic, has called on the Arab information ministers to take into consideration the dangerous and fierce imperialist-Zionist onslaught which is trying to forge our beliefs and instead to adhere to the history of our Arab struggle.

In a press statement following his arrival in Algiers yesterday to participate in the conference of information ministers of countries of the confrontation and steadfastness front, the Syrian information minister added that the information ministers, in the first conference they are to hold, will discuss ways to entrench and deepen national principles adopted by the confrontation and steadfastness conferences in Tripoli and Algiers and ways of enabling the Arab citizen to become aware of the dangerous stage through which we are living, in addition to explaining the objectives sought by the front for confronting the imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad stated that this conference will give due importance to these objectives and will increase cooperation and coordination among Arab information departments in the confrontation and steadfastness countries, to achieve more effectiveness in confronting the imperialist onslaught. The minister also expressed optimism on the results of the conference.

CUBAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN151337Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 15 April--Rene Anillo, Cuban deputy foreign minister, arrived in Damascus this morning on a 2-day visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, assistant to the foreign minister, and the Cuban ambassador in Damascus.

The SANA correspondent has learned that the Cuban official will hold talks with Syrian officials on the meeting of the coordination bureau of the nonalined countries which will be held in Kabul next month. Talks will also be held on bilateral relations.

Received by Syrian Counterpart

JN151857Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 15 April--A meeting was held here at the Foreign Ministry between Deputy Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur and his Cuban counterpart, Rene Anillo. The meeting was attended by Dr Haytham al-Kilani, head of the International Organizations Department in the Foreign Ministry, and Arturo Arozco, Cuban ambassador in Damascus. The talks dealt with the meeting of the coordination office of the nonalined countries which will be held in Kabul next month in preparation for the convening of the nonalined foreign ministers conference proposed for Havana next year.

PLANNING DELEGATION RETURNS FROM BUDAPEST

JN151506Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 15 April--The Syrian delegation led by Hamid Mar'i, assistant minister of state for planning affairs, today returned to Damascus from Budapest following a 1-week visit to Hungary during which the executive program of the scientific-technical cooperation agreement between the two countries for 1978-80 was signed.

The assistant planning minister stated to a SANA correspondent that this program includes bringing in a number of Hungarian experts to work in some state ministries and institutions as well as sending groups of Syrian trainees to Budapest for courses aimed at acquainting them with various aspects of agriculture, irrigation, industry, public utilities and other areas.

The assistant minister added that the delegation held discussions with the responsible officials in Hungary on a draft economic cooperation agreement intended to be concluded between the two countries. The delegation also visited a number of factories and mills during which it became acquainted with the Hungarian equipment in the field of industrialization.

AL-BA'TH ACCUSES U.S. OF ANTI-ARAB BIAS

LD141444Y Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 10 Apr 78 p 3 LD

[Muhammad Mansur article: "The United States Is Biased and Its Hostility to Arabs Is Unquestionable"]

[Text] Cyrus Vance has admitted that Israel used new U.S. weapons in Lebanon which it was not supposed to use before consulting the U.S. administration. It appears that even the U.S. forces have never used these weapons before. Nevertheless, Vance said that Washington would not impose sanctions on Israel, as it is supposed to do, and would not exert any pressure on it, claiming that this would help the process of peace.

On the same day another American official, U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown, also made a statement. He said that the United States has plans to invade the Arab Gulf if its oil interests there are threatened. Such a statement is nothing new because, prior to Brown, Energy Secretary Schlesinger declared some time ago that the United States intended to insure "real security" for the Middle East oil resources. He said that this task is of a military nature and requires decisive action by Washington.

Thus the U.S. attitude is: continued support for Israel and its aggressive policy on the one hand and open threat to the Arab countries on the other. It must be said here that if there had been a clear and firm Arab stand on all the national issues, the United States would not have been able to say and do what it is saying and doing now. But as long as the United States sees that the majority of Arab leaders are silent and reticent in the face of the As-Sadat regime's activities, then this is a historic golden opportunity for it to subvert the Arab mind and have a free hand.

The United States, for example, believed that Arab leaders, particularly those who could influence the Egyptian regime, would take strong measures against As-Sadat following his visit to occupied Palestine. But the opposite happened and, as a result, As-Sadat was encouraged and the United States was allowed to continue its hostile policy toward the Arabs. We have noted changes in the policy of Carter's administration since As-Sadat's visit to occupied Palestine.

Therefore, some of the Arabs in one way or another helped the U.S. administration to change its attitude from bad to worse. They also supported As-Sadat's regime and prolonged its life, thinking that Israel would offer As-Sadat something under U.S. pressure, as they have long dreamed.

But despite all the attempts that have been made and are still being made the situation has not changed. All those who imagine that Israel will withdraw from this or that part peacefully are deluding themselves. The best example of this is the recent Security Council Resolution 425. Despite the fact that it is a U.S. resolution, Israel has not implemented it so far and will not implement it in full.

Once again we say that as long as we are not true to ourselves as Arabs, the day will come when we will find no one standing with us in this world. Nevertheless, despite all that has happened since As-Sadat's visit, we still have a great opportunity before us provided that we know how to play our cards beginning with aborting the As-Sadat visit and all its results. We must then create a programmed and effective Arab solidarity both in word and in deed. Syria, which believes that the Arab nation is the source of its strength and its great hope and that effective Arab solidarity is the stronger peace, once again reaffirms that nobody in this world will restore Arab rights except the Arabs themselves.

PREMIER RECEIVES CONGRATULATORY CABLES ON EVACUATION DAY

JN162033Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi has received congratulatory cables from Ahmad al-Khatib, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Confederation of Arab Republics; Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; and Phan Van Dong, the prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

LIBYA

MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH ARRIVES

LD131840Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1725 GMT 13 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli--Mokhtar Ould Daddah, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah that will last several days. An official reception was given to the Mauritanian president. He was welcomed by Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, secretaries and under secretaries, members of the diplomatic corps, heads of departments of the Foreign Secretariat and the Jamahiriyah ambassador to Mauritania.

The Mauritanian president is accompanied by a delegation that includes Politburo Member and Minister of Party Affairs Abdallah Ould Boye, Politburo Member and Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Mouknass, Presidency Secretary General Mohammad Ali ash-Sharif and representatives of various ministries.

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD151324Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpts] Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, this morning had a meeting with Moktar Ould Daddah, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. The meeting was attended from the Libyan side by Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Maj Al-Khuway Lidi al-Humaydi and Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, and from the Mauritanian side by Abdallah Ould Boye, member of the Politburo and minister of Party Affairs, and by Hamdi Ould Mounknass, member of the Politburo and foreign minister.

President Moktar Ould Daddah, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli at noon today following a short official visit to the Jamahiriyah.

The president of Mauritania made a statement to the JANA representative in which he said: My visit was successful. I had a meeting with my brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and discussed important issues concerning the affairs of our two countries and the African Continent.

Brother Moktar Ould Daddah stressed that his visit to the Jamahiriyah will have a positive and fundamental role in consolidating fraternal relations between the two countries. Finally, he expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the brother colonel and the Libyan Arab people for their wonderful hospitality, and wished progress and prosperity for the people of the Jamahiriyah.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD151325Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania have signed a minutes of cooperation agreement in the spheres of agricultural development, sea fishing, mining, electricity, education and training, communications and manpower. The minutes of agreement was signed on behalf of the Jamahiriyah by Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, and for Mauritania by Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Mouknass.

Communique Issued

LD151812Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 15 April--The following joint statement was issued today on the visit to Libya of brother Moktar Ould Daddah, president of the Mauritanian Islamic Republic from 13 to 15 April 1978:

At the official invitation of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, commander of the Great 1 September Revolution, His Excellency Moktar Ould Daddah, president of the Mauritanian Islamic Republic, visited the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah from 13 to 15 April 1978.

Official talks were held between Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Moktar Ould Daddah which covered bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries and Arab, African and international issues.

The talks were attended from the Libyan side by Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the People's General Congress; Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary; 'Isa al-Ba'ba', under secretary at the Foreign Secretariat; Ahmad al-Atrash, assistant under secretary for technical affairs at the Foreign Secretariat; Sana Sha'ban, assistant under secretary for political affairs at the Foreign Secretariat; Muhammad Ahmad al-Maqri, Jamahiriyah ambassador to Mauritania; 'Ali at-Tahir Abu Sarwil, director of Arab affairs; Tahit at-Tumi, acting director of cooperation.

From the Mauritanian side, the talks were attended by 'Abdallah Ould Bayyuh, minister in charge of national secretariat and party organizations; Hamdi Ould Mouknass, minister of state for foreign affairs; Muhammad 'Ali ash-Sharif, secretary general of the Presidency; Muhammad Mahmud Ould Waddadi, Mauritanian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah; Sa'id Muhammad Diyagana, official in charge of missions at the Presidency of the Republic; Mohammad Ould Ahmad, assistant secretary at the Presidency; and al-Amin Mawlay az-Zayn, permanent secretary general of the Higher Council of Youth.

The two sides reviewed the bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries in all fields. They affirmed their determination to bolster and develop these relations to achieve the joint high-minded objectives of both countries. The joint Libyan Arab-Mauritanian committee will give a new push to this cooperation and crystalize it so as to reflect the ambitions of both fraternal peoples.

The two sides agreed to continue consultations and coordination between them to bolster the Arab and African causes and all the just causes in the world.

The two sides reviewed the serious situation through which the Arab nation is passing and strongly denounced the continued Zionist aggression against the Arab nation--aggression which seeks expansion and the destruction of the Palestinian people and their victorious revolution. The two sides denounced the treacherous Zionist aggression against fraternal Lebanon, which reflects the Zionist entity's arrogance and disregard for human values and world public opinion.

The two sides affirm their full and absolute support for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in their just struggle for liberation and return, as well as for their right to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state on Palestinian territory.

The two sides affirm their support for the armed struggle of the Palestinian resistance for the achievement of these sacred objectives.

The two sides stand firmly against any attempt to liquidate the Palestinian cause and to squander the (?Palestinian) rights. They also uphold the need for the liberation of all the occupied Arab territories.

The two sides greet the steadfastness and struggle of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territory and strongly denounce all the Zionist methods of suppression and terrorism.

As regards the African Continent, the two sides renewed their strong denunciation of the policy of racial discrimination in Africa. They also reaffirmed their support for the just struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Azania and Namibia for freedom and independence.

As regards the Horn of Africa, the two sides expressed their hope that stability will return to that region so that its peoples will be able to devote their capabilities to overcoming backwardness in accordance with the spirit of the OAU Charter, and to solving the problems of Africa by Africans themselves, without any foreign interference.

The two sides consider that the Sabha meeting attended by the Jamahiriyah, Chad, Sudan and Niger for national reconciliation in Chad and the clearing of the atmospheres is a model to be followed in solving the problems of Africa in a fraternal spirit away from all foreign interference.

The two sides condemn the racial collusion between the Zionist entity and the racist regimes in Africa as pivots of aggression against the Arab and African peoples. In this regard, the two sides uphold the UN resolutions which condemn the racist regimes and which consider Zionism a form of racism. The two sides reaffirm the need for the bolstering of Arab-African cooperation and promoting it in all fields.

The two sides express their adherance to the principles of the nonalined movement and their appreciation of the role it plays in the struggle against imperialism and its determination to bolster and strengthen this movement to enable it to face up to the challenges of imperialism and colonialism. The two sides demand the establishment of a new international economic system which would realize the legitimate objectives of the developing countries. The two sides also affirm the right of all peoples to hold full control over their natural resources.

The two sides affirm their adherance to the objectives and Charter of the United Nations and agree on the need for the revision of the UN Charter to insure equality among the member countries and also insure Third World representation.

The Libyan Arab side expressed its admiration for the important role the Mauritanian Islamic Republic is playing for the realization of cohesion between Africa and the Arab homeland and the role it is playing in the Arab and African fields. The Mauritanian side expressed its admiration for the leading role the Great 1 September Revolution is playing within the Arab liberation movement and in checking the imperialist plots.

President Moktar Ould Daddah expressed his admiration for the great achievements of the Great 1 September Revolution in all fields. He also expressed his admiration for the direct democracy exercised by the Jamahiriyah for the realization of the people's authority.

President Moktar Ould Daddah expressed his utmost gratitude to the Jamahiriyah for the great welcome and warm fraternal reception it accorded him and his accompanying delegation during their stay in the Jamahiriyah. President Moktar Ould Daddah invited his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to visit the Mauritanian Islamic Republic. The invitation was accepted and its date will be fixed later.

Done at Tripoli between 13 and 15 April 1978.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN RECEIVES JORDANIAN MINISTER

LD1316302 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Apr 78 LD

[Text] At the royal palace this morning the king received Mr Hassan Ibrahim, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, who was accompanied by the Jordanian ambassador. The Jordanian envoy handed his majesty a letter from his brother King Husayn, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Jordanian minister told us:

[Ibrahim-begin recording] First of all I would like to express sincere gratitude to his majesty for giving me the honor of an audience today. The meeting was excellent and very useful for our Arab nation in view of the explanation we heard from his majesty regarding the current Arab situation and future joint Arab action. The occasion was a great manifestation of the effort his majesty is exerting for the Arab causes. The aim of my visit is to deliver a letter from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother King Hassan which contains a complete plan on the nature of the joint Arab action in the future, as seen by Jordan. This plan will be the subject of study and discussion at the coming Arab summit conference which Jordan has proposed in order to work for protecting Arab land from Israeli expansion and for protecting the Arab future from Zionist aggression, with the aim of liberating the occupied Arab territories and realizing the just rights of the Palestinian Arab people. [end recording]

After that his majesty received in audience OAU Assistant Secretary General Kamanda Wa Kamanda. Present were M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and Ahmed Reda Guedira and Ahmed Bensouda, advisers to his majesty.

SUDAN

EMBASSIES TO FACILITATE RETURN OF CITIZENS

JN1510122 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 15 April--It has been learned here that all Sudanese embassies have been instructed to facilitate the return of those Sudanese living abroad who wish to do so. This comes within the framework of the agreement signed recently in London regarding the dissolution of the National Front and the removal of Sudanese camps [as received] abroad. [The opposition leader,] Ash-Sharif Husayn al-Hindi, will arrive in Sudan at the end of April.

U.S. ARMS SALES NOT FROZEN; CLUSTER BOMBS DELAYED

TA141931Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 14 Apr 78 TA

[Excerpt] Our political correspondent says that to date Israel has not received any announcement about the freezing of defense purchases agreed upon recently between 'Ezer Weizman and the U.S. administration. Circles in the defense system said today that the cluster bombs were used in the Litani operation against targets such as artillery positions which constitute the war weaponry of a regular army and not the weaponry of terrorism. These artillery positions were used against civilian settlements in Israel.

Israeli sources in Washington told our correspondent Eli Nissan that the U.S. administration decided to delay the supply of cluster bombs to Israel until clear rules regarding the future use of these bombs are set.

DAYAN COMMENTS ON APPLYING 242 to W. BANK, GAZA

TA142101Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 14 Apr 78 TA

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan by Elimelekh Ram on 14 April--place not given]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said today that Israel accepts Resolution 242 as a basis for negotiations between Israel and all the neighboring countries--Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. On the other hand he said that Israel will object to adding Judaea and Samaria to the wording of the resolution. Mr Dayan said this in a talk with our correspondent Elimelekh Ram in the course of which he explained the new information policy decided on at the Foreign Ministry yesterday regarding Israel's position on Resolution 242. [begin videotape]

[Dayan] The differences of opinion are whether to add to the declaration of principles that Resolution 242 applies to all or to three fronts. The differences of opinion revolve around this. Our objection concerning this matter is not whether Resolution 242 applies to Jordan. We are ready...We say it applies to Jordan. However, we do not want, we absolutely do not want to add to the wording of Resolution 242 phrases or sentences that are not included in this resolution. Resolution 242 does not say on all or on three fronts. We say either of the following: There should either be a mention of Resolution 242, meaning that Israel accepts, that Israel and Egypt accept Resolution 242 and 338 as a basis for negotiations--just a mention of the resolutions--or, if they prefer to give the text of the resolutions in full, let them quote them in their entirety. The thing that should not be done--and we are not prepared for it--is to add words that are not in the text. The words, all the fronts or some of the fronts are not written in Resolution 242. There are different interpretations. One should not deal with interpretations. We accept 242 and do not want to add words that are not included in the body of the resolution.

[Question] You emphasize, Mr Dayan, that 242 will serve as a basis for negotiations between Israel and all the neighboring countries--Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. When you mention Jordan--does this mean that you apply 242 to Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] When we mention Jordan it is clear that we are talking about those clauses of Resolution 242 which refer to each country, namely that 242 applies to territories conquered by IDF forces in the 1967 war. This sentence applies to all countries and also to Jordan. However, the question regarding each of the countries, primarily Jordan, is to what extent an interpretation or precise spelling out is needed for this or that part.

We object--and I will explain, if time allows, why we are not prepared to say that it applies to Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. To Jordan--yes [words indistinct]. Well, then why have we got two parts here? One part is that a precise spelling out is not given in 242. I will base my words on authoritative sources, on the government preceding the previous one, the Meir government, which easily made the decision that the Gaza Strip would constitute a part of the State of Israel; this was after that government announced in 1970 that it accepted Resolution 242 regarding Jordan. Despite accepting this it saw no difficulty in annexing the entire Gaza Strip with all its residents, 400,000 souls in all, to the State of Israel. No "atomization" of this resolution was done. What are the special advantages of the Gaza Strip as compared with Judaea and Samaria? I do not understand what these are, but this is not the main point. The main point, in my opinion, is that 242 is essentially intended to be the framework of a settlement between countries and countries only.

Resolution 242 is based on four principles: 1) the withdrawal of Israel from territories; 2) in return for this the Arabs will make peace with Israel, namely, a peace agreement; 3) recognized and secure borders are determined; and 4) these borders are determined through negotiations. If we say that we discuss the future of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip on the basis of Resolution 242 we say by this that we will have negotiations with a neighboring country. What is Resolution 242 all about--that we will discuss Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip with the Arabs, that we will talk about borders, about a peace treaty, about negotiations aimed at a peace treaty? This was understood by the Americans who easily agreed with us on this point, that the discussion regarding the future of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip should not be seen in the framework of Resolution 242, that this is a subject that should be discussed separately. Therefore, according to the working paper concluded between us and the Americans in October of last year, it is said that peace negotiations will be conducted between Israel and Jordan, Israel and Egypt, Israel and Syria and so on. And, as for the issues of the Gaza Strip and Judea and Samaria--these will be discussed in a working team, between the representatives of the Palestinian Arabs and Israel. One should very carefully avoid fixing Resolution 242 as a framework for negotiations about Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Whoever does this--this means an embryo of a country, the negotiations between which and Israel should guarantee borders and a peace treaty [words indistinct] since we want (?to overturn) the country. [sentence as heard]

[Question] Nevertheless, we have a very sharp argument with the United States today concerning the interpretation Israel gives to Resolution 242. You claim that the administrative administration [autonomy plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip] is compatible with the principles of 242. Does this mean that you recognize the withdrawal of forces from that administration that will be set up in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip?

[Answer] This means that we think that this proposal of administrative administration is compatible with the principles of Resolution 242 and I will mention two or three of them. We do not, as is well known, propose to apply Israel's sovereignty to those territories that will enjoy administrative autonomy. We say that this subject will remain open. Second, we say that they will have a local police force; we do not want to have political supervision over them. This is called in English "self-rule" or administrative autonomy.

Well, regarding the question about the substance of 242 and the meaning of secure and recognized borders and of the withdrawal of IDF forces--is the very abolishment of the military authority, the establishment of local police and the nonextension of sovereignty, neither Israeli nor another, compatible with Resolution 242? Our answer is an absolute yes. On this matter we consulted some of the best experts on the wording of Resolution 242. I do not want to mention their names but the best experts or expert on this subject is almost [as heard] in the United States. [end videotape]

IDF RADIO REPORTS ON 15 APRIL CABINET SESSION

TA161715Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 16 Apr 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] The government believes that UN Security Council Resolution 242 serves as a basis for negotiations with all neighboring countries. This was stated in the cabinet statement issued at the conclusion of its weekly session. The announcement was ready by Government Secretary Arye Na'or. [begin recording]

In the cabinet meeting today the foreign minister surveyed the information guidelines sent to Israel's embassies abroad. A debate was held on them. These guidelines say that Resolution 242 will serve as a basis for negotiations between Israel and all the neighboring countries--Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Israel's position is that the peace plan, which includes administrative autonomy in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, is compatible with the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 242. If the Arab countries raise counterproposals we will discuss them with a practical approach, just as we expect them to do with regard to our propoals. UN Security Council Resolution 242 is based on negotiations between countries and on an agreement between countries, including an agreement concerning recognized and safe borders. [end recording]

The cabinet's statement constitutes nothing new and agrees with the known policy of the Israeli Government and with its proposal concerning the declaration of principles. This is how the government secretary himself explained the cabinet's statement. Further details are brought by our political correspondent Yosi La'or: [begin recording]

The government secretary and some of the cabinet members this afternoon explained that the cabinet's statement constitutes nothing new. One minister went even further and said that there is not a bit new, not even a new nuance. In contrast, political circles yesterday and today wanted to explain that the formulation of the foreign minister does include something new, which is, mainly, laying an emphasis on Israel's readiness to conduct neogitations with Jordan on the basis of the UN Security Council resolution.

It seems then that there are different interpretations concerning the formulation agreed on between the prime minister and the foreign minister on Friday. Some wish to view the new formulation as a step toward the application of Resolution 242 to the Jordanian front, namely, progress toward the acceptance of the principle of negotiations about a withdrawal in Judaea and Samaria. According to this interpretation, negotiations with Jordan will be conducted on the basis of resolution 242. What to discuss with Jordan? Judaea and Samaria, clearly. Therefore, the answer according to this interpretation is that the resolution also applies to the eastern front. It should be emphasized that this interpretation is by no means the official interpretation.

What then is the need for a new formulation regarding which it is difficult to decide whether it contains something new? The government secretary's answer: This is our precise reply to the claims in the international press to the effect that the government does not abide by its international commitments regarding Resolution 242. Another answer, given by political circles: We hope that the new formulation will melt the ice a little in the negotiations with Egypt and with a view to the prime minister's visit in the United States.

The cabinet statement was unanimously adopted, without a vote being taken, after exchanges of remarks among most of the ministers. A few ministers wanted to stress the positive aspect in the formulation of the cabinet statement while others criticize, and criticized in the cabinet meeting, Israel's information policy concerning Resolution 242 and the declaration of principles. [end recording]

Correspondent Discusses Decision

TA162049Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Apr 78 TA

[Excerpt] Our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram brings clarifications in the wake of the decision taken at today's cabinet meeting:

Sources in the prime minister's office reemphasized today that these principles do not represent a change in Israel's position regarding UN resolution 242 as presented to President Carter by Prime Minister Begin in July 1977. The sources also point to the last draft of Israel's declaration of principles which was presented by the deputy prime minister to the DMC Knesset faction a few weeks ago. The second clause in this document says, I am quoting here, in the framework of a peace agreement, according to UN Security Council Resolution 338, the two governments express their readiness to negotiate peace agreements fulfilling all the principles of Resolution 242, which will serve as a basis for the negotiations between Israel and the neighboring countries. This document was rejected by President Carter.

What, then, is new in these principles? The fact that Israel agrees that Resolution 242 will serve as a basis for negotiations between it and all the neighboring countries, including Jordan, does not mean that it agrees to a withdrawal on the three fronts as a condition for the continuation of the negotiations. However, it does not have the opposite meaning either. President as-Sadat can renew the dialog if he wants to do so. It is clear that Israel will discuss the problem of Judaea and Samaria with Jordan. Everything is open for negotiation, as is well known. The Arabs will demand a withdrawal and Israel, for its part, will propose the plan of administrative autonomy.

The government secretary said unanimity prevailed in the cabinet today regarding the principles presented by the foreign minister. From talking with ministers, however, we learned that not all of them are happy. The deputy prime minister said that the principles presented by the foreign minister to the cabinet today are identical, in his opinion, to those included in the proposal for the declaration of principles. Nevertheless, we got the impression that ministers interpret these principles according to their understanding or inclination. Some view these principles as introducing flexibility into Israel's position whereas others do not view them as representing a substantive change in Israel's position. If there is indeed no change in the position what is the reason for looking at them again and the publicity given to the new-old principles? We tried to get the government secretary's reply to this today. [begin videotape]

[Na'or] The subject was raised because the foreign minister, after consulting the prime minister, sent guidelines to our embassies all over the world. The aim of these guidelines is to clarify Israel's positive position toward the political process of establishing peace in the region and its constructive proposals which contribute to the promotion of this process.

[Question] Sir, if I am not mistaken, this position was taken by the prime minister to the United States on his initial visit there as prime minister in July 1977. Have no guidelines been passed to Israeli representatives on this subject since then?

[Answer] God forbid. Such guidelines are handed to them routinely. The foreign minister instructs the ambassadors as to what to say from time to time.

[Question] You said though that this is compatible with Israel's position, with the position of this government ever since it was established. Why did the foreign minister, or the government, then raise and emphasize this again today?

[Answer] In view of all the reports published in many different communications media in Israel and the world that Israel disavows, as it were, its own commitments regarding UN Resolution 242 and that Israel's position is, as it were, an obstacle on the road to peace, the foreign minister found it proper to distribute these guidelines to the ambassadors. After all, the things I have just read are essentially positive, not negative. [end videotape]

BEGIN SAID TO ACCEPT DAYAN'S VIEWS ON 242

TA161336Y Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Apr 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Text] In an attempt to rescue the negotiations with Egypt from their current deadlock, the prime minister, Mr Menahem Begin, and the foreign minister, Mr Moshe Dayan, on Friday agreed on new formulations of the Israeli position, showing a recognition of Resolution 242's application to the West Bank, although they continue to reject a territorial withdrawal and regard the automomy plan as an expression of the withdrawal required by the Security Council resolution.

The foreign minister has for several months now been presenting his position regarding the application of Resolution 242, according to which Israel can declare that the resolution also applies to the West Bank, but the demand in the resolution for a withdrawal from the territories does not apply to the West Bank in the original meaning, that is, territorial withdrawal. According to Dayan's interpretation, the components of the withdrawal from the West Bank are the elimination of the military government, granting the inhabitants of the area the possibility of choosing their citizenship and the establishment of self-rule.

In an international discussion in his ministry, Dayan last week said that the nature of the withdrawal from the territories demanded by Resolution 242 will be different on each sector. In Sinai Israel has agreed to a total withdrawal, but has linked this with certain conditions (the continuation of the existence of Israeli settlements, a security strip under the aegis of the United Nations and so on.)

Further on he said that if As-Sadat rejects the Israeli proposal, the cabinet may present a different withdrawal program--not necessarily to the international border.

On the Golan Heights--if and when there are negotiations with Syria--the withdrawal will take a different form from that in Sinai. In the West Bank, Dayan added, the withdrawal will take the form of the self-rule program. The foreign minister has concluded that Israel could not accept the demand to make the principles of Resolution 242 applicable to the Palestinians. Should it do so, it would have to discuss with the Palestinians such questions as borders and that would lead to the establishing of a Palestinian State, a move for which no Israeli cabinet is prepared.

On Friday the prime minister and the foreign minister discussed the situation in the negotiations with Egypt and decided to introduce Dayan's approach into the information campaign. The signficiance of the decision is a recognition--although not a specific one--by the cabinet of the fact that the principles of Resolution 242 also apply to the West Bank.

Observers pointed out last night that Minister Hayyim Landau is the one who publicly claimed that the principle of withdrawal from the territories included in the resolution does not apply to the West Bank and thus the U.S. administration has been dragged into putting pressure on Israel on this question. Begin himself has not publicly given this interpretation to the Security Council resolution, although his position rejecting any form of withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria is well known.

Dayan's formulations show an attempt to escape from the hard-line claim that Resolution 242 does not apply to Judaea and Samaria. According to Dayan's interpretation, the resolution applies to the situation of relations between Israel and the four Arab countries bordering it, including Jordan, and it will in any case have to discuss with all these countries, including Jordan, a withdrawal from territories taken from them in the 6-day war, to include the West Bank.

The foreign minister's interpretation, which has been adopted by the prime minister, may increase the weight of Jordan as a possible negotiating partner in a discussion with Israel over the future of the West Bank. A new formulation is intended to make it easier for the president of Egypt to renew the talks with the cabinet and improve Jerusalem's positions with Washington.

For more than a month the negotiations have been mired in a deadlock over the question of to what Resolution 242 applies. The United States accepted the Egyptian position that the following words should be added to the resolution: "withdrawal in all sectors." The Begin-Dayan conclusions from the end of the week reject this demand, but they have, as they both understand it, a sort of new opening for getting the political process moving.

On Friday the prime minister met with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis and discussed with him ways to advance the negotiations. At the end of the month Mr Begin is leaving for a visit to the United States, at the end of which he may meet with President Jimmy Carter. The new formulations are intended to prepare the ground for this meeting.

LABOR PARTY CRITICIZES BEGIN ON RESOLUTION 242

TA1614347 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The reaction team of the Labor Party said that the most recent interpreation of Resolution 242 may bring about agreement between Mr Begin and Mr Dayan but this is not Israel's problem today. The members of the team remarked that no amount of puns and sophistication can be a substitute for a clear and reliable policy. According to the Labor Party members, the Likud's policy and the interpretations of Resolution 242 contributed to the deadlock in the political negotiations and to a grave erosion in the support for Israel.

DAYAN COMMENTS ON U.S. MEDIATION, TALKS WITH EGYPT

TA151629Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan believes that there should be a dialog between Israel and the United States on the political negotiations. However, there are matters over which we can talk with the Arabs directly, without U.S. intervention. As an example, he cited the policy of the open bridges reached through direct contacts between the governments of Israel and Jordan.

Mr Dayan does not believe that an agreement can be reached without Washington but he is sure that on certain matters U.S. intervention may constitute an obstacle. He is confident that there is a basis for reaching an understanding and an agreed formula between Israel and the United States regarding the framework of the peace negotiations. We are not up against a stone wall but this does not mean that we agree to all of Egypt's demands or that Egypt agrees with all of our positions.

Despite the disagreements and differences of opinion with the United States, the foreign minister is of the opinion that there are chances that the political contacts will be renewed. He assumes that this will happen when the prime minister arrives in the United States at the end of the month.

Mr Dayan fiercely criticized those calling for peace now. He said that all those who think so should announce in all sincerity that they demand that the government withdraw to the 1967 borders and be prepared [to give the Palestinians] self-determination, which means the establishment of a Palestinian state. Peace now, he said, means a surrender to As-Sadat's demands.

Mr Dayan added that Israel's peace plan is not sacred and the prime minister himself told Egypt's president in Ismailia that Israel will be ready to discuss any Egyptian plan. However, the Egyptians have not forwarded any plan or proposal and insist that Israel announce in advance that it is willing to withdraw on all fronts. We are not in a situation where we can be made to accept dictates, Mr Dayan said.

The foreign minister spoke in Beersheba, at a meeting of the Forum for Political and Social Clarifications.

More on Remarks

TA151906Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Apr 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Excerpts] We will open the newsreel with a report from the meeting of the Forum for Political and Social Clarifications held in Beersheba today. The main speaker at the meeting, as we have already heard in the news, was Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. Our correspondent Sara Frankel reports: [begin recording]

The foreign minister believes that it will be impossible to find a positive settlement for the conflict between Israel and the Arabs without solving the Palestinian problem. The evidence for this is that Egypt's President as-Sadat discussed the Palestinian issue with Defense Minister Weizman more than he did the bilateral issue between us and Egypt. By his own evidence the foreign minister belongs to those who believe that a full dialog is required with the United States on the matter of the political negotiations but not exclusively [with the United States.] According to him there are subjects concerning which U.S. intervention or mediation may cause harm. As an example he cites the policy of the open bridges that was reached through direct contacts in the past between the Jordanian and Israeli governments. This policy could never have been carried out through foreign mediation.

Dayan does not believe it is possible to reach an agreement without the Americans but he is not among those who say everything or nothing. There are agreements that are better made without them. As for the continuation of the political contacts, Dayan says that during Begin's visit the way and the manner for the resumption of the contacts between Jerusalem and Washington will surely be found.

[Dayan] I believe that there is a basis, there is a possibility for reaching understanding, for reaching an agreed formula between us and the United States concerning the framework of the peace negotiations between us and the Arabs. I do not think we are up against a stone wall. I think this stands a chance, has a basis. I want to say right away that when I say a basis this does not mean that we today agree to everything they want of us or that they agree with all our positions.

[Frankel] The foreign minister listed the well-known differences of opinion between Israel and the United States regarding the negotiations. He emphasized that despite the differences he is certain that it is possible to reach an understanding with the Americans. Israel needs strategic positions in the West Bank and along the Jordan River and these should be bargained for and insisted on. Dayan is of the opinion that the Arabs do not have the option of receiving by military means more than they can get through a political option. They must know that threats can be of no avail. In this connection he mentioned the question posed in the Egyptian parliament as to why the Egyptians do not stop the negotiations with Israel.

[Dayan] Let As-Sadat stop the negotiations then. What will happen then? We are in Sharm ash-Shaykh and we are in At Tur, we are in the Sinai and we have the settlements there [words indistinct]. Let him stop the negotiations then [words indistinct]. No peace will be established. We will be saddened if no peace is to be established. It is asked or demanded of us that we withdraw, that we hand over territories. The starting position on this matter, the initial key, is in our hands. If we do not agree, if we think this withdrawal means the forfeiture of our security or future, we will not do this.

[Frankel] The foreign minister fiercely criticized the internal arguments which ignore the facts and hold onto the deception that Israel desires all of Eretz Yisra'el. So much for the remarks of Moshe Dayan. [end recording]

MK SHOVAL SPEAKS AT BEERSHEBA FORUM ON PEACE TALKS

TA152011Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Apr 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] MK Zalman Shoval, chairman of the Public Advisory Committee for Information, spoke before Foreign Minister Dayan [at the meeting of the Forum for Political and Social Clarifications in Beersheba]. He emphasized that the argument is not one between [retaining] all of Eretz Yisra'el and a territorial compromise, but between those supporting Israeli rule over vital areas as opposed to those who are ready to hand over all areas on all fronts. The argument around the interpretation of Resolution 242, Mr Shoval says, is a diversion of the mind from the main point. He says that the resolution is accepted by Israel as long as nothing is added to or taken from it. He came out against the demand to change the Israeli interpretation of Resolution 242 because As-Sadat wishes it. He leveled criticism at the United States, which is following the tricks of the Egyptian President, by saying that its status as a mediator may be undermined. [begin recording]

We would like to have the United States as a fair mediator in the process of achieving peace, provided that it is indeed one and does not give us explanations that say As-Sadat wants. Israel also has to give its agreement. Such a system of relations is not a good basis for negotiations. If everything said by As-Sadat--not only things said to the Americans who come to see him, but perhaps also things which are not spoken for the ears of Americans--if every such thing turns into a precondition of As-Sadat's, a condition that is accepted and taken for granted by the Americans and who knows who else, then it seems to me that we impair the chances of setting up a system of true peace between us and the Egyptians in particular, and between us and the Arabs in general. [end recording]

GUR WOULD FOREGO F-15'S TO BLOCK SALE TO SAUDIS

TA163000Y Jerusalem POST in English 16 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By Wolf Blitzer]

[Excerpts] Washington--The Carter administration is prepared to approve the sale of 3,000 U.S.-made armoured personnel carriers to Egypt shortly after the pending sale of 50 F-5E fighters goes through Congress, U.S. sources have disclosed. Such a sale of armoured personnel carriers, the sources said, would be designed to replace fully all of Egypt's older Soviet-supplied carriers.

The proposed U.S. sale, which would involve the M-113 APC model, is valued at approximately $700 million including spare parts. Presumably, Saudi Arabia has agreed to pay for the sale. The M-113 is the same model the U.S. sells to Israel.

American officials insisted yesterday that no "final" decision has been made on the Egyptian request. But this appeared to represent a technicality since the U.S. Defence Department is already known to have raised no military objections to such a sale. The officials also confirmed that Egypt has presented the U.S. with a lengthy shopping list for military equipment, including TOW anti-tank missiles, advanced radars, communication facilities, and various sorts of ammunition.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that Rav-Aluf Mordekhay Gur, who steps down today as chief of staff, has recommended to Prime Minister Menahem Begin that Israel forego the 90 planes it is slated to receive in the package in order to prevent Saudi Arabia from receiving the F-15.

Gur told a recent delegation of American visitors that Israel, from the strict military point of view, would be better off with the entire three-country package sale killed. He cited these reasons:

--Israel might be able to convince the administration to supply Israel with the Israeli-slated aircraft at a later date. The U.S. does have written commitments to provide the planes to Israel.

--The package theory was a terrible precedent, linking military supplies to Israel to those to Arab confrontation states.

--The specific dangers that F-15's in Saudi hands would pose for Israel.

IDF SOURCES DENY WITHDRAWAL NOT ACCORDING TO PLAN

TA152023Y Paris AFP in English 1955 GMT 15 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv, April 15 (AFP)--Israeli military sources tonight denied reports from Beirut that yesterday's Israeli pull-back in southern Lebanon was less than that announced earlier by Israel.

Lebanese officials today described the withdrawal as "microscopic," but the Israeli sources said that it was in line with a plan published in New York on April 6.

They added that the speed of the Israeli withdrawal depended on the rapidity with which United Nations forces sent under orders of the UN Security Council took up position, and that so far only half the proposed contingent had arrived.

The sources said that several dozen Palestinian guerrillas had already returned to Kawkaba, a village held by Norwegian troops, and that the 2,000-odd UN troops in Lebanon were clearly not enough to maintain order.

GUR DENIES TERRORISTS BACK IN EVACUATED AREAS

TA161917Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 15 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Chief of Staff Gur said today that reports that terrorists have turned, as it were, to the areas in southern Lebanon from which the IDF has withdrawn are unfounded. He said that according to his assessment the process of the IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon can last a month or 2 months, simultaneously with the deployment of the UN force in this region. The last part of the withdrawal will be from the Tyre region.

The chief of staff believes that there are still chances to reach an understanding with the governments of Syria and Lebanon regarding the future nature of the activity of the terrorists in the region. Gur spoke at the ZOA [Zionist Organization of America] House [in Tel Aviv].

He disclosed that Abu Jihad, one of the Fatah leaders and the man who organized the terrorist attack along the coastal road, escaped from the village of 'Abbasiyah only a few minutes before an IDF force entered.

35,000 ATTEND TEL AVIV RALLY IN SUPPORT OF BEGIN

TA152015Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Apr 78 TA

[Text] About 35,000 people are now assembled in Malkhey Yisra'el Square in Tel Aviv--2 weeks after thousands convened at this very place for a demonstration for peace now--this time assembling in solidarity with the government's policy and Begin's political moves. The slogan this evening is: Safe Peace.

Our correspondent reports that the square is convered with posters and slogans expressing support for the government and stating that Menahem Begin is the safest and best prime minister Israel has ever known. The organizers of the assembly told our correspondent that they have already collected over 200,000 signatures from throughout the country for letters of support for the prime minister.

The Peace Now Movement, headed by the initiators of the officers' letter, said this evening that the assembly now being held in Malkhey Yisra'el Square is a partisan assembly in every respect and has been organized with the help of Herut Movement branches throughout the country. The movement members say the prime minister is mistaken if he thinks he can gain the support of people with the help of [singers] Zeviqa Piq and Enrico Macias.

PROMINENT ISRAELIS JOIN MOVEMENT FOR PEACE NOW

TA162106Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Apr 78 TA

[Text] About 50 intellectuals and public figures in economic affairs have decided to join the activity of the movement for peace now; the movement inspired by the letter of the reserve officers.

Our correspondent Asher Schwartz reports that they will concentrate their actions in two major spheres: widening the circle of activists from among people active in economic affairs, and starting 1,000 home discussion circles throughout the country. Among the outstanding figures in this group are: Prof Uri'el Simon from Bar Ilan University; Dr Yig'al 'Elam from Tel Aviv University; the founder of the Dan Hotels network, Yequti'el Federman; and Capt Nimrod Eshel.

HA'AREZ COMMENTATOR ON USE OF FORCE IN WEST BANK

TA161538Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 16 Apr 78 pp 9, 13 TA

[Yehuda Litani commentary]

[Text] In reply to questions about the credibility of the contents of the article "Hardening Within the West Bank" published in the weekly TIME (in the 3 April edition), which includes reports to the effect that IDF soldiers harmed Arab citizens of Judaea and Samaria (in the West Bank), the IDF spokesman reported the following after a thorough investigation held at the site of the events:

--Between 15 and 25 March 1978 and during the IDF operation in southern Lebanon illegal assemblies and breaches of the peace occurred several times in Judaea and Samaria. Roadblocks were set up on the main roads. Military and civilian vehicles were stoned, attempts were made to set fire to vehicles and so on.

It was discovered that the organizers of the illegal assemblies and the rioters were mainly students from various educational institutions who did this in spite of the attempts by local notables to act to calm matters down. In the course of the breaches of the peace soldiers and civilians were injured and a female tourist from the United States received a head injury. Military and civilian vehicles were also damaged.

--Everyone knows how sensitive the IDF is toward human life and human dignity. In this connection there are detailed orders throughout the entire area forbidding IDF soldiers from using live ammunition against civilians, apart from the use of tear gas, which is accepted throughout the world for use in the dispersal of illegal demonstrations and the prevention of breaches of the peace.

--The school in Bayt Jala sits on the main road between Jerusalem and Bethlehem and its students (who are mentioned in the TIME article) set up a barrier of stones at the crossroads, threw stones at vehicles which happened to be passing by and prevented them from proceeding. The commander of the Israeli force, who was alerted to the barrier, asked the students to disperse and to stop throwing stones, but, in reaction to this, he was pelted with stones. In accordance with standing orders, the commander was forced to use tear gas grenades. There is no truth whatsoever in the report that the tear gas grenades were thrown into student classrooms. The investigation showed that only one grenade was thrown into the school courtyard and not even one soldier entered the school premises.

Contrary to the version given by the IDF spokesman there is a totally different version by people from Bayt Jala. The mayor of Bayt Jala, Bishara Daud, said that on the day of the event (Monday, 20 March) he called the (Askander Houri) High School and asked the teachers to assume responsibility for keeping the peace in the school. Bishara Daud, who is not one of the majors regarded with sympathy by members of the military government because of his declared support of the PLO, said that that same day there was no demonstration in that high school or in Bayt Jala at all.

Most of the inhabitants of the small town are Christians and the mayor said that the town has been known for all these years for the fact that its young people and students in the school there have not participated in demonstrations or in any form of breaches of the peace. In Bishara Daud's view, the action was directed against him personally, because of his avowed views. The results of the action, which Bishara Daud called "barbaric," are that seven youths, students of the second class (equivalent to the sixth year in high schools in Israel) received serious injuries to their legs (fractures) and will be forced to remain at home for several months.

Bishara Daud sent a cable to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman bitterly condeming the action and asking that the matter be investigated. According to the mayor, he has not to this day received a reply to this cable.

(Walid Na'im Qaysiya), 14, a student in the second class of the (Askander Houri) High School in Bayt Jala, is one of the students from the school who was injured during the incident. Both his legs are in plaster casts and the doctors have told him, according to him, that he will be forced to remain in bed in this condition for several more months.

His classroom is on the second floor of the school, (Walid) said. During the morning, when classes were being held in all the classrooms (according to him, there was no demonstration and the students did not throw stones), soldiers arrived at the school, entered the classrooms and said to the students: Don't be afraid, close the windows.

(Walid Qaysiya) said that the soldiers ordered the students to close all the windows and also the door. The soldiers left one window half open and through it they threw a tear gas grenade. According to him, the soldiers also threw tear gas grenades into other classrooms. "We began to feel strangled," (Walid Qaysiya) said, "and we tried to go out through the door, but soldiers were standing there and they did not let us out. Some were afraid and decided to jump out of the windows (7 meters above the ground, which is strewn with stones and rock fragments because of a ditch being dug there--Y.H.) and so I broke both legs."

The principal of the school, Mr (Lewis 'Abd Rabo), who is over 60, said that that same day at 0930 2 or 3 cars arrived at the school with about 15 soldiers who entered the school courtyard. At their head was the deputy commander of the Bethlehem subregion, Major Nissim. According to the principal of the school, Nissim entered his room and told him that the school's students had thrown stones at his men. "He treated me degradingly," Mr ('Abd Rabo) said, "and even pushed me."

The principal said that Major Nissim told his soldiers to disperse and that one of them should stand at each door to the classrooms on both floors of the school. The soldiers asked the students to close the windows in their classrooms and thenthey threw two or three tear gas grenades into the classrooms. As stated, children began to jump out of the windows on the second floor and were injured. The children were afraid and there was panic.

The entire action lasted about 2 minutes, according to the principal, and during it tear gas grenades were also thrown into his office and the teachers room (two tear gas grenades which did not go off remained in the teachers room.) At the end of the action, Mr ('Abd Rabo) said, seven students were sent for treatment to the hospital and another five students were sent home after treatment.

The principal of the school said that the school's students did not take part in any demonstration and the stones placed on the road were not put there by students from the school, but by youths who were not residents of Bayt Jala. There is an agreement between the military government and the principals of the schools, according to which soldiers will not enter school premises except at the specific request of the school principals. I did not ask them to do this and they violated the agreement, the principal said.

He went on to say that during the action 13 tear gas grenades were thrown into the classrooms, the teachers room and his office. After this event, the school's principal, together with the person responsible for education in the Bayt Jala municipality, met with the military governor of the Bethlehem subdistrict. We told him about what happened, Mr (Lewis 'Abd Rabo) said, he did not deny it, but expressed his regret and said that he too noticed the stones which had been placed on the main road and had thought that the stones had been put there by students from our school. I told him he had been mistaken. The janitor of the (Askander Houri) High School went through the classrooms with me and showed me the black marks left by the tear gas grenades.

That same day there was a student demonstration in Ramallah. A teacher from one of the schools where demonstrations were held said afterward that border guards acted with more violence than is customary in cases of this sort. According to him, members of the border guard pushed youths into a glass door and the students, who were afraid of the armed policemen, broke the glass and escaped through the door--its splinters injured many of them and gave them serious scratches and lacerations. According to the teacher, 40 students were rushed to the new hospital in Ramallah for treatment of injuries caused by the tear gas grenades.

The teacher went on to say that there had been an eyewitness to the event when members of the border guard struck one of the students in the head, causing him to lose consciousness, and in order to check whether he had really lost consciousness, they drove their jeep up to the student and halted near his head.

Inhabitants of the West Bank and East Jerusalem say that the security forces have recently been more severe, even in the course of routine searches and roadblocks, when they ask inhabitants for their identity cards or check the contents of vehicles. The soldiers behave with violence and threaten us with blows, said a businessman from Al-Birah, and the last time they even swore crudely at my wife and my daughters.

A U.S. teacher at the college of Bi'r Zayt said that a few weeks ago he came up against a barrier of stones put up by youths on the road to Ramallah. A car belonging to the border guard stopped alongside the car in which he was traveling and the border guard personnel ordered us all the begin to gather up the stones. I told them, the teacher said, that I am a U.S. citizen and I showed them my passport. Their commander's reply was: "That doesn't interest me, get out of the car and help them pick up the stones."

(Khalid Hijasi), a boy of 16 from East Jerusalem, is employed together with his older brother, by a photography service for the East Jerusalem paper AL-FAJR. On Thursday, 16 March, he had prepared several photos he had taken from television broadcasts, (Khalid) said that he telephoned the AL-FAJR offices and asked that someone come and pick him up in a car. Since they were late in arriving, he went on foot from his home to the AL-FAJR office. He noticed a police car containing plainclothesmen following him.

According to him, the policemen suddenly got out of the car, pulled him by his hair and dragged him into the car. In the car, he said, they threatened his life, cursed his family and asked him whether he drew PLO slogans on the walls of houses. (Khalid Hijasi) claimed that the policemen slammed the door of the Ford Escort on his hand, burned his arm with cigarettes and hit him all over his body. (He showed me burns on his arm and where he had received a heavy blow on his hand.) (Khalid) limps to this day.

People from AL-FAJR said that policemen asked them whether (Khaled) worked for them and after this fact had been confirmed, the left the place. They said that (Khaled) was not capable of walking and had to be carried after he was thrown out of the policemen's car. (Khaled) said that the policemen took the photos he had been carrying in his pocket and also took a sum of money. I was afraid to submit a complaint to the police, (Khaled) said, because I feared they would hit me again.

(Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim Dwiq,) a youth of 20 who works in a garage in the Wadi (Joz) in East Jerusalem, told me that on Tuesday, 28 March, he tried to drive into the garage where he works. A border police car was traveling in the opposite direction (according to (Ibrahim), he had not violated traffic regulations) and, because he was driving into the garage, the border policemen had to slow down.

They became angry, the youth said, and asked me whether I wanted to cause an accident. They told me to take my license and identity card and get into their car. (Hisham Harhash,) 30, who works in the garage with (Ibrahim), saw what was going on and followed the border policemen's car in his car. According to him, he wanted to be with (Ibrahim) in case he was asked to provide bail for him.

They traveled in the direction of At Tur and there, (Hisham Harhash) said, they noticed me and, together with another border police car which was on the spot, they blocked the road and asked me what I was doing there. I told them that I wanted to provide bail for (Ibrahim) if this were requested. They told me to go away and one of them hit me. (Hisham Harhash) noted down the license number of the border police car his friend was in--6603. He added: I then went to the southern district command headquarters and there I told the duty sergeant what was happening. The sergeant called the commander of the border police.

In the meantime, (Ibrahim) said, border policemen took him near Zekharyah's tomb and there the three policemen beat him. He was then taken to the Russian compound and there was beaten again. Because of the blows, (Ibrahim) said, he needed hospitalization in the Hospice Hospital for a day and a half. We submitted complaints to the department in charge of complaints from the public in the national police headquarters, (Ibrahim) said, and we were also seen in the Russian compound by a police officers, Chief Inspector Moshe Levi, who took the identification cards from the border policemen and took down the particulars of the border policemen who had hit me.

(Ibrahim Dwiq) is also finding it hard to move about, even though 2 weeks have passed since he was beaten, according to him. He showed me areas on his body which appeared to have been hit. "The real terrorists," (Hisham Harhash) said at the end of our talk, "are those policemen who hit for no reason and undermine the relations between the two peoples; they cause unnecessary and harmful hatred."

From the office of the spokesman of the national headquarters of the police force it was reported after an investigation that (Dwiq) and (Harhash) submitted a verbal complaint on 29 March regarding the blows they were given by the border policemen. The complaint, so it was said, is in the first stages of investigation.

INDIA

REACTION TO REPORTED NUCLEAR DEVICE IN HIMALAYAS

Desai Making Inquiry

BK150930Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that he is making a detailed inquiry into the allegations of planting plutonium devices in the Himalayas by the Central Intelligence Agency. He told newsmen at Delhi airport that there is nothing alarming.

Mr Morarji Desai said that until full facts are available it will not be safe to make any comment. He said that there should be no unnecessary panic.

The U.S. ambassador, Mr Robert Goheen, who was also at the airport, said he is already in touch with his government to get information as soon as possible. He agreed that the issue is sensitive to his country's relations with India as well as China.

Desai Statement on Device

BK171452Y Delhi ISI in English 1436 GMT 17 Apr 78 BK

[17 April statement by Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai to Lok Sabha]

[Text] Mister speaker, sir, honourable members are quite understandably exercised over reports that have appeared in the press here, based on a news item which appeared in the United States, about an attempt to locate a nuclear-fuelled powerpack on the heights of Nanda Devi. Failure in this attempt, which has raised just apprehensions about the possibility of contamination of the waters of our sacred River Ganges [fragment as received] I can assure the house that all of us share this concern of honourable members as well as by people at large at possible hazards to our environment and people.

The house is aware that as soon as these reports came to our attention we expressed our grave concern to the U.S. authorities and have subsequently been in touch with them in New Delhi and in Washington. We have also made thorough enquiries at our end to obtain as complete details as possible in the last few days. In the light of the international situation prevailing at that time and scientific developments which were taking place both far and near, it was decided by the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America at the highest level that a remote sensing device with a nuclear powerpack should be installed near the highest point of Nanda Devi with the object of securing information about missile developments. Accordingly, a mountaineering expedition manned only by Indian mountaineers went up Nanda Devi followed by a joint Indo-American expedition scientifically equipped with the device with a view to installing it at a height of 25,000 feet.

When the expedition was approaching the summit, it was overtaken by a blizzard which made further ascent impossible, and, facing fatal hazards to the party, they were obliged to retreat to a lower camp at a height of 23,000 feet. In precipitate descent under very trying and exacting conditions, they had to leave the powerpack securely cached. With the onslaught of winter no attempt to locate and retrieve the device was immediately possible and had to be postponed. Another expedition was mounted in May 1966, that is, in the following spring, with intention of retrieving and installing the device. However, the expedition party, on arrival at the area, discovered that a major avalanche had occurred around the area, and the device could not be located. Every attempt was made by ground and aerial search, aided [by] supersensitive scientific equipment, to trace the powerpack, but these efforts proved in vain.

After all such attempts, the conclusion reached by our experts, which included scientists, was that if the powerpack had broken it would have been detected through these means, and the likelihood was that the device got buried deep somewhere after having been smothered or carried into a neighbouring crevice by the avalanche. Searches both on ground and by helicopters were organised every year over a wide area and continued till late 1968 but without the equipment being sighted or detected by scientific means.

Simultaneously, samples of water were taken up to 1970 and were under observation for some years, but no trace of contamination was detected.

In 1967 a new device was taken to the same area and was duly installed on a neighbouring peak. This functioned normally for a while but was removed subsequently in 1968, and the equipment was returned to the United States. These operations, as I said, were apparently carried out predominantly by Indian personnel but under joint auspices and were in the know of and with the approval at the highest political level of Government of India at that time.

After news reports appeared a few days ago, we have assembled relevant details and background of those expeditions with reference to available record and in consultation with both the U.S. Government and the Indian departments who were involved in this project.

We have tried to get as much technical information about the device as was possible. According to information obtained and published literature on the subject, the device comprises of a power system energised by 2 to 3 pounds of plutonium-238 metal alloy which is contained in several doubly encapsulated leaktight capsules. The inner capsules enclosing the plutonium are made of 20 millimeter-thick tantalum, a refractory metal. The primary function of the tantalum is to inhibit the corrosive action of the plutonium fuel. The outer capsules are of nickel alloy having high strength and temperature resistant properties. The capsules are encased in a graphite block which, along with thermoelectrical modules, in turn is encased in a cylindrical aluminium casing which is 14 inches in diameter and 13 inches high. The total weight of entire assembly was 38 pounds.

According to records, it is clear that at that time all aspects of safety, including possible hazards to operating hands and the general public, were taken into account, and the conclusion was reached that no undue hazard existed. Tests which have been carried out by the United States indicate that even under extremely unlikely conditions of complete instantaneous fuel exposure to water there is little if any possibility of pollution attaining unsafe limits. We understand that even in such an unlikely eventuality a flow of 5,000 gallons per day would itself dilute the dissolved material to safe drinking water levels. It is also believed by scientists that dangers of pollution on instantaneous exposure to air are also minimal. In brief, they claim that the design details and protective systems are such as to ensure maximum possible safety against splintering and consequential contamination and environmental hazards.

Notwithstanding the safety factor in design and the results of physical search and scientific detection, now that our government's attention has been drawn to it we are making renewed efforts to make ourselves triply sure. It is proposed to appoint a committee of scientists to study and assess the problem and, with the help of all possible expert advice, to recommend such further action as may be considered necessary to safeguard against future hazards to the environment and to the people. We have taken immediate action to obtain fresh samples of water from the upper reaches.

As I mentioned, we have been in touch with the American Government. The U.S. authorities had provided technical details, scientific cooperation and sophisticated equipment at the time when the search operations for the missing powerpack were being made in the summer of 1966.

Mister speaker, I can recall the critical situation with which we were faced during those days of concern, apprehension and anxiety. The authorities concerned in India at the highest level assessed the situation in terms of certain precautionary and effective devices to identify various threats and contingencies and decided upon the measures which I have outlined above. It is clear from the records that as far as human agencies could provide against hazards they were taken into account.

It is unfortunate that nature intervened to present for the future, as we now find it, a continuing source of apprehension and anxiety. However, as far as I see, no cause for alarm on the grounds of health or environmental hazard exists. The indirect evidence so far is that the safety precautions built into the pack may be as effective as has been claimed, and if so, pollution effective [as received] may not take place in future. It is gratifying that none have been detected so far. I would also like to assure the house that to our knowledge no other device of this kind exists on Indian soil, and no such operations which carry potential national hazards would be permitted by us.

Students, Communists Protest Device

BK160757Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT 16 Apr 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Apr 17 (AFP)--Members belonging to the All-India Students Federation and the All-India Youth Federation started a demonstration outside the United States Embassy here last night against CIA activities and the reported planting of nuclear devices in the Himalayas, it was reported here this morning.

They also submitted a memorandum condemning the "nefarious" activities of the CIA.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) Politbureau has directed its units to organise protests against the U.S. for violating India's sovereignty and endangering the health and future of the Indian people by secretly placing plutonium devices on the Nanda Devi.

In a statement, the Politbureau has asked party units to involve other democratic parties and organisations in the protest.

The party also called upon the government to dismantle the devices and pin responsibility on the U.S. for violation of Indian sovereignty.

Energy Experts Collect Samples

BK170818Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Atomic energy experts from Bombay flew over the Garhwal Mountains and returned to New Delhi yesterday with environmental samples from the region. The visit was in connection with the reported planting of plutonium devices in the Himalayas by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Commentator Minimizes Danger

BK151338Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 14 Apr 78 BK

["Spotlight" program: "CIA's Plutonium Device"--commentary by K.S. Jayaraman of Press Trust of India]

[Text] The Himalayas have always lured mountaineers from different countries. All of them came seeking adventure. But the team of U.S. mountaineers, who climbed Nanda Devi in 1965, had a different mission.

An American magazine editor has revealed that the men were trained by the Central Intelligence Agency, and their mission was to plant a spy station atop the peak to detect Chinese nuclear explosions. In order to supply electricity to their detection equipment, they carried a nuclear electricity generator powered by plutonium, a deadly radioactive material. The entire CIA mission failed, but the team left the nuclear power pack bechind which was buried in the snow. And unless the powerpack is retrieved from the Himalayan snow, it might break and spill the plutonium into the waters of the Ganges.

This report by Howard Kohn, associate editor of the ROLLING STONE magazine, may or may not be true, but the sensational revelations have surprised the Indian Government and shocked the Indian people. So far the reported CIA misadventure has neither been denied nor confirmed by the CIA. India has asked the United States if the report is true, and the U.S. State Department has said it is looking into the matter. And today the external affairs minister told an agitated Lok Sabha that the government has taken a very serious view of the report. He announced that he will make a statement on Monday. Whether or not the report is true, it is ironic that the revelation has come at a time when India and the United States are building up their friendship that was temporarily lost in the early 1970's.

The fears over the danger to the Ganges water, fish and crops seem to be exaggerated. Spillage of plutonium in huge amounts had happened in the past elsewhere in the world without having caused any serious hazard as now visualized over the loss of a small powerpack. About 8 years ago, two nuclear bombs fell over Spain from a U.S. bomber, and quite recently, a Russian satellite disintegrated in space and plutonium from its power pack spilled over vast areas of Canada.

The powerpack abandoned in Nanda Devi looks a much smaller hazard. The CIA powerpack lost in the Himalayas is said to be power source called SNAP, which is an acronym for: System for Nuclear Auxilliary Power. It is a device that uses radioactive isotopes as a power source. About eight radio isotopes are known to be suitable for such powerpacks, and one of them is plutonium-238. These radioactive isotopes decay by emitting either alpha or beta radiation and the absorption of these radiations by a shield produces heat. This heat is then converted into electricity by a thermocouple. SNAPS have been used for years as power source for instruments on board the satellites or over the moon and for operating remote area weather stations and lighthouses. Superpower navies use them in underwater operations and for powering earthquake detection instruments under the ocean.

The United States Atomic Energy Commission started the SNAP program in 1956. Since then, over 20 models of SNAP have been designed and developed, their weights ranging from 1 pound to 50 pounds, and power output ranging from .001 of a watt to 400 watts. The lifetime of SNAP generators very from a few days to about 10 years, depending on the type of radio isotopes used.

According to some Indian atomic energy experts, the SNAP atop Nanda Devi might be a low-power one--about 5 watts or less--and hence would have used just a few hundred grams of plutonium-238. This plutonium-238 is not the same material as used in atomic bombs. Bombs use plutonium-239, another isotope of plutonium that keeps on emitting radiation for several thousand years. Plutonium-238 used in SNAP has a half life of 90 years. As long as the plutonium is safely inside the shielded container there will be absolutely no danger whatsoever. In fact, they are designed that way for rugged military operations.

It must be remembered that the same plutonium is used to power pacemakers implanted in the chest of heart patients, but there is stringent quality control for pace makers. They must not erode or corrode, should not be damaged during cremation or in violent car crash.

For SNAP, experts say, the quality control is still more stringent. It is doubly shielded by shockproof anticorrosion metal. Hence, it is very likely that the power-pack in Nanda Devi is still intact. Even if it breaks open and spills its contents, the hazard would be extremely minimal because the few hundred frams [words indistinct].

Press Expresses Concern

BK151507Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1050 GMT 15 Apr 78 BK

[From the press review]

[Text] Several newspapers have commented on the disclosure by a U.S. magzine that the CIA had planted in 1965 nuclear monitoring equipment in the Himalayas to detect Chinese nuclear tests. According to the report, the device placed somewhere halfway to the Nanda Devi peak lies buried under an avalanche. This can cause pollution and be a health hazard.

The U.S. ambassador in New Delhi has promised to get full information from his government.

Expressing grave concern over the U.S. magzine's report, the TRIBUNE of Chandigarh says: If the story is true--and the probability is that it is--the U.S. administration should lose no time in admitting the fact and cooperate with the Indian Government in undoing the mischief.

It continues: Considering the fact that between 10 and 13 years have elapsed since the planting of the equipment and nothing serious seems to have happened so far, it may not be advisible to raise undue alarm. One of the less fearsome possibilities is that the nuclear prackage may have been carried by the swelling waters of the Ganges, diluting the radiation and dropping it into the ocean. It will, however, be folly to ignore the hazard posed by the possible presence of the device. Constant erosion may open the device and release the radiation into the river.

Radiation apart, the paper adds, there are a number of points on which the U.S. Government owes explanations to this country. The CIA's habit of exposing whole populations and countries to hazards of all kinds needs to be put an end to. More immediately, the two governments should spare no effort in digging out the truth lest the Indian people live in fear of nuclear radiation affecting generations.

The ECONOMIC TIMES thinks that New Delhi has adopted no more than a correct stance in asking the U.S. to ascertain the facts. The newspaper also refers to the fears of hazard if the news is true. It then points out that the news report has been published just when moves are being initiated to thaw relations between New Delhi and Peking. No less serious is the fact that the sovereignty of this country has been infringed upon. The paper calls for corrective steps to protect the nation's integrity against such menaces.

The INDIAN EXPRESS observes: The greatest need immediately is for a state of alert to the world of science. Is there any way to neutralize the threat? It asks, and adds: The best that the scientific community can devise may be needed and soon to avert a sudden disaster. Some may still hope that the story will be denied. Some others may think that the hazards emerging from the plutonium powerpack, even if it is there, are being exaggerated. But none can afford to sit back and wait and see.

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